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Commando 30 yrs for Kuwaiti

LOD, Israel, Oct 6, (Reuters): Israel yesterday sent two Arabs to prison for 30 years.

They were convicted of attempting to attack Israel across the Lebanese border and of belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The prosecutor told Lod military court that Jordanian citizen Bani Mousa Al Sayad, 24, and Kuwaiti Mahmoud Faras Al Deka, 21, were captured by Israeli troops.

The commandos were heading for the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona where they planned to take hostages, he said.

Handing down the 30-year sentences, chief judge Colonel Aharon Alperin said: "It is incumbent on us to impose the heaviest possible sentences on those who are bent on carrying out mass murder in our country."

End of the road for 50 Lankans

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

FIFTY Sri Lankan workers will today (Saturday) surrender for deportation to the immigration authority in Farway because their employer failed to provide iqamas (visa) for them throughout their 18 months stay in the country.

This is the first known case when the workers themselves are seeking deportation on the grounds of non-provision of visas.

"There's no way out for us; we are illegal residents under the law; our employer is not processing our papers and we don't want to go to jail for something we cannot control," they told the Arab Times.

The cleaners, who had repeatedly asked for iqamas, were frightened of arrest after a group of workers were taken in by the police and deported. Five cleaners were deported last Wednesday.

"We didn't want to be jailed like our friends, so we're requesting deportation," said one cleaner, "with the help of our embassy."

He alleged that the company was not getting them visas to avoid paying the KD 2 penalty for each worker for the 18 months it did not process their papers. The management was unavailable for comment.

The 50 cleaners came in March 1985 along with 33 others to join the cleaning company. Their salaries were never paid on time and were delayed by at least three months; food, as stated in the contract, was not provided and accommodation was below standard. But they did not stop work.

In March this year they sought the assistance of the Ministry of Social

All Kuwaitis must change ID by Dec 31

KUWAIT, Oct 6, (Kuna): The Public Authority for Civil Information today announced that Kuwaiti citizens will be asked to change their civil identity cards, and no further extension, following expiry of the deadline, will be entertained.

An official source at the authority, in a statement to Kuna today, said that the replacement of I.D. cards for Kuwaitis will be made free of charge, calling upon all Kuwaiti families, which have received envelopes for changing their cards to immediately furnish the required information, attach personal photographs and drop the envelopes into the specific boxes, placed by the authority in all co-operative societies and some super markets.

The official advised those who have not yet received their envelopes, to contact any of the authority's branches to receive the said envelopes without any further charges before expiry of the date.

Turkey accepts talks Dispute over ethnics

ANKARA, Oct 6, (Reuters): Turkey accepts in principle a call by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for direct talks with Sofia on their dispute over Bulgaria's ethnic Turkish minority, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz was quoted today as saying.

"Our reply to the OIC call is positive in principle," he told the semi-official Anatolian news agency in New York.

OIC foreign ministers urged the two countries on Wednesday to meet in Kuwait, the current OIC chairman, on Oct 30 to discuss the issue.

Yilmaz said Bulgaria's presence at the talks would mean that it accepted the existence of a Turkish minority, something which it has denied.

More than 310,000 ethnic Turks, complaining they are victims of a forcible assimilation campaign, have fled to Turkey from Bulgaria since mid-May.

Turkey wants to negotiate a pact to safeguard the rights of both those who have left and those who remain.

The Secretary-General of OIC, Hamid Al Gabid said on Wednesday that Bulgaria persisted in a policy aimed at the "eradication of any presence of Islam" from that country.

Al Gabid was speaking at an extraordinary, closed-door session of OIC foreign ministers to discuss ethnic Turkish Bulgarians, more than 250,000 of whom have fled to Turkey since June to escape a campaign of forced assimilation.



Man of peace

The Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual and political leader of Tibet who won the 1989 Nobel peace prize, says he believes all humans are capable of peace and compassion.

"In my case, I make more effort or more attempt to develop these good qualities, so I got this prize. But everyone has the capability," the Dalai Lama said yesterday at a news conference in California.

"I very much appreciate that kind of recognition about my beliefs," the Tibetan monk had said earlier.

"My case is nothing special. I am a simple Buddhist monk — no more, no less."

Nobel Dalai Lama China criticised

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., Oct 6, (Reuters): Taking full advantage of the Nobel peace prize spotlight, the Dalai Lama wasted little time yesterday before firing a verbal double-barrel at China, criticising Beijing for its crackdown on his Tibetan followers and on its own pro-democracy demonstrators.

Just hours after hearing he had won the coveted award, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader accused Beijing of systematically crushing the Tibetan people and praised China's pro-democracy demonstrators as "freedom fighters."

Saying he was deeply touched by the award, the Dalai Lama urged others to follow his example of non-violence because their situation may be.

"In the last 30 years, I became a refugee — a desperate situation," the 54-year-old exiled spiritual leader said, "yet I followed strictly only one principle — non-violence."

Referring to China, Tibet's "god-king" said: "We will want a dialogue with the Chinese government. But at the same time we want to show our solidarity, our deep sympathy to those freedom fighters, those Chinese students who are working for democracy and freedom."

The award, which came following the suppression of the Chinese democracy movement in Tiananmen Square last June and protests in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, angered Peking's embassy in Norway, which deemed it interference in China's internal affairs.

But the Dalai Lama acknowledged that the award afforded him an unprecedented opportunity — in the form of increased media attention — to spotlight the predicament of his native land.

Students hijack Burma airliner

BANGKOK, Oct 6, (Agencies): Two Burmese students hijacked a Burma Airways airliner to Thailand today and threatened to blow up the plane if their demands for democracy and the release of political prisoners in Burma were not met. Thai officials said.

The hijackers allowed an 11:00 pm (1600 GMT) deadline to pass without incident and released 35 women, children and elderly passengers, according to Thai Deputy Prime Minister Thienchai Sirisamphan, who boarded the hijacked plane three times to talk to the students.

About 50 people, all believed to be Burmese, remained aboard the plane which was surrounded by navy commandos at U-Tapao airfield, a former US air base 75 miles southeast of Bangkok.

A senior Burmese embassy official negotiated with the two hijackers by telephone but rejected their demands, Thienchai said.

Thai television reports quoting passengers released from the plane said the hijackers claimed to have grenades or explosives aboard. One report quoted the hijackers as saying they had smuggled grenades onto the plane hidden inside detergent boxes.

Than Maung, 73, told reporters he had not seen any grenades, but said one of the hijackers claimed to have a remote-control device to set off explosives.

"They were very gentlemanly but they seemed serious and said they were ready to die if their demands were not met," Than Maung said.

The Burmese military has said it is detaining about 800 people for political offenses but Western diplomats in Rangoon have said thousands have been arrested without charge in a campaign against the political opposition.

"They (the hijackers) have begun releasing some of the hostages but the rest are still being held on the plane," Charoon said. Officials said so far 35 passengers, mostly women and children, have been released.

A Thai official who asked not to be identified said the Burmese government has requested permission for a Burmese commando team to fly to Thailand to assault the plane.

He said he did not know what the Thai response had been.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan said he told officials to use extreme care in dealing with the situation.

In 1981 Thailand allowed an Indonesian military team to assault a hijacked Indonesian plane in Bangkok, killing all five hijackers.

Charoon said the Fokker F-28 jet owned by Myanmar (Burma) Airways was on a flight from the southern Burmese city of Mergui to Rangoon with 81 passengers and four crew members on board when the pilot radioed the plane had been seized.

Iraq to orbit sat as Mideast arms

Race on for subs, concern over missiles

CAIRO, Oct 6, (Agencies): A Saudi Arabian newspaper said today Iraq will launch a satellite of its own, equipped with advanced devices, to provide Baghdad with information about the military activities of its enemies.

Asharq Al Awsat said Brazil was to play a major role in the carrying out of the nearly \$50 million scheme, part of Iraq's developing space programme.

The daily said a Brazilian group manufacturing "orbit missiles," and identified as "Orbita," would be the project's main contractor.

The Saudi newspaper said the Brazilian group is a consortium of

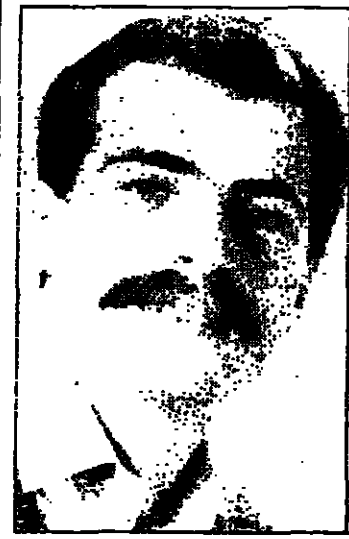
Brazilian firms specialised in the space field and production of arms.

Asharq Al Awsat said Iraq would be supplied with related technology as part of the deal the Brazilian agency for space research was involved in.

It said this provides for setting up a laboratory to enable Iraq to build and test its own satellites, and training Iraqi technicians by Brazilian experts in the field.

The satellite, believed to be equipped with highly sensitive French-made cameras, "weighs 150 kilograms and would be orbited at a height of 700 km (438 miles)," the newspaper said.

ICRC officials 'quit' S. Lebanon



Emmanuel Christen



Elio Enriquez

2 kidnapped PLO denounces

SIDON, Oct 6, (AP): Masked gunmen kidnapped two Swiss Red Cross officials today, bundled them into a car and drove off toward a Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon, police reported.

The pair were identified as Emmanuel Christen, 32, and Elio Enriquez, 23. Both worked as orthopaedic technicians at the artificial limb centre operated by the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross in Sidon.

Friday's abductions were the latest in a series of kidnappings of foreign relief agency workers in south Lebanon.

None of Lebanon's armed factions claimed responsibility for today's abductions.

But most of the earlier kidnappings in the south have been blamed on Fatah-Revolutionary Council, the group led by Abu Nidal.

Zeid Weibeh, spokesman for the PLO, denounced the abductions and said the PLO would "spare no effort" to help rescue the kidnapped men.

Witnesses in Sidon said they saw a convoy of seven ICRC cars with Swiss officials headed for Beirut in the late afternoon.

Red Cross officials would not comment on whether that indicated that the ICRC was pulling out of Lebanon, as it did last year after an earlier kidnapping.

Police in Sidon said the two Red Cross officials were grabbed at 7:30 am (0430 GMT) when they arrived at the artificial limb centre.

It occupied the ground floor of a four-storey building near the Palestinian refugee camp on Ein Al Hilweh on the southeastern outskirts of the port city of Sidon.

The victims had driven about a half-mile (800 metres) to the centre from their mid-city headquarters in a white sedan bearing the Red Cross insignia on both sides and flying a Red Cross flag, police reported.

Talks on Syrian pullout

TAJIF, Oct 6, (AP): Lebanese legislators held informal meetings today for crucial consultations before formally tackling the issue of a pullout of Syrian troops from the country.

The 63 deputies, 33 Christians and 30 Muslims, skirted formal debate on the issue last evening in the sixth day of meetings of Lebanon's Parliament seeking a settlement to end 14 years of war.

Right wing Christian Members of Parliament came under growing pressure today to drop their demand for further guarantees of a quick Syrian withdrawal from their war-torn country.

Conference sources said the mediators called diplomats from Iraq, France, Britain and the United States to Tajif yesterday to ask them to work on the Christian leader General Michel Aoun, who remains in East Beirut.

Hamid Dakroub, a conservative Shiite deputy close to the Christian camp, indicated the Christians were still holding out for a firmer timetable.

"Some Lebanese are asking the committee to give guarantees that the Syrians will withdraw. It's a question of confidence and that confidence does not yet exist," he told reporters.

Conference sources said the deputies, at the urging of a three-man Arab League peace-making committee, skipped over the chapter of a draft national reconciliation charter that deals with a phased pullout of Syria's estimated 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Conference spokesman Abdullah Moawad issued a brief statement last night saying the deputies debated the third and fourth chapters.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said it would be an act of treason if Muslim deputies meeting in Tajif gave in to what he called the unjust domination by Lebanon's Maronite Christian minority.

Sri Lankan massacre

COLOMBO, Oct 6, (Agencies): Police today found 21 bodies of youths bringing the total number of bodies found in central Sri Lanka in the past two days to 51, military officials and residents reported.

The residents from central Kandy, 90 kilometres from Colombo, told Kuna the 21 bodies with gunshot injuries, were found in three villages, Geliya, Mahiyawa and Kandy town.

(See Page 7)

'Good-will' visit

BEIJING, Oct 6, (Kuna): It was announced here on Thursday that a high-ranking Chinese official will pay an official visit to the Indian capital this month.

Xinhua news agency, the national service in China, said Vice President Wo Xueqian will make a five-day "good-will" visit to India on Oct 12 at the invitation of the government of India.

(See Page 7)

Sex stimulant: a drug threat

ANKARA, Oct 6, (Reuters): A drug widely abused as a sex stimulant is part of a growing drugs threat in the Middle East, a United Nations panel warned today.

Gulf Arab consumption of the anti-depressant fenetyline is soaring, Arab delegates told the 16-nation UN sub-commission on illicit drug traffic and related matters in the Near and Middle East.

Plot to kill Aquino

MANILA, Oct 6, (Reuters): The Philippine army is questioning a recruit after presidential security aides found a bullet in a rifle he was to use during military honours for President Corazon Aquino on Friday, government television said.

It said the bullet was discovered by security men before Aquino arrived in Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila, where she visited a military training camp.

Honour guards for Aquino normally carry unloaded weapons and the incident followed military reports of an extremist plot to assassinate the president.

Full coverage on Philippines — Page 5



Welcome kiss
Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (left) is welcomed with a kiss by East German leader Erich Honecker.

[See Page 6]

Student holds up class, 1 shot

ANAHEIM, Calif., Oct. 6, (Reuters): A 15-year-old boy armed with a shotgun and semi-automatic handgun took a high school choir class hostage today in this Los Angeles suburb and wounded a fellow student before surrendering, police said.

Police said the suspect, a freshman at Laura High School near Disneyland, entered the school auditorium where the class was rehearsing at about 9:30 am local (1630 GMT) and minutes later shot a 15-year-old boy in the face, police said.

The youth surrendered about 45 minutes later, and the wounded student was in stable condition at a nearby hospital.

At first, about 20 students were involved, but a group of girls was allowed to leave, leaving about 10 other students as captives, police said.

One of the students said the suspect, whose identity was not revealed by police, had threatened earlier to hold the class hostage.

"Just the other day he told me...that he was going to hold our class hostage, and I told him he was stupid, that he was dumb and that he was just joking about it," the student said.

Row over US death penalty

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6, (AP): Chief Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist, bypassing for now the federal courts' policy-making body, has sent to Congress a plan that could lead to swifter execution for death row inmates.

Rehnquist's move has angered civil liberties lawyers who had criticised the proposal when it was unveiled last month.

It also appears to have dismayed many of his colleagues on the judicial conference, the 28 federal judges headed by Rehnquist who serve as a kind of board of directors for the federal courts.

Fourteen of the judges wrote Congress to

request hearings on whatever recommendations the conference makes, the New York Times newspaper reported in its Friday editions.

The chief justice's move "would essentially render the (US) judicial conference impotent," Leslie Harris of the American Civil Liberties Union told Legal Times, a Washington-based newspaper for lawyers.

In its Oct 2 issue, the newspaper quoted opponents of the report as saying Rehnquist's action may suggest federal judges are split over what changes, if any, are needed in handling death penalty appeals.

The 14 judges, including the chief judges of

eight of the 13 federal judicial circuits, on Wednesday wrote conference secretary Ralph Mecham asking him to "transmit to the chairmen of the Senate and house judiciary committees a request that hearings be held so that the recommendations of the judicial conference, which will be adopted at its next meeting, can be considered," the Times reported.

A special committee appointed by Rehnquist issued a report last month offering a plan to reform a system it said encourages endless legal manoeuvring, years of delay and frenzied, last-minute moves to stave off executions.

Mom upset: 10-floor plunge

Kids thrown to death

NEW YORK, Oct. 6, (Reuters): A woman said to be distraught over the breakup of her marriage threw three of her five children out of a 10th-floor window in Queens, killing one child and critically injuring another.

The third was rescued by passing firemen who saw him as he dangled from a window ledge of his New York apartment last afternoon.

The woman, identified as Mennah Abdussalam, 32, was chanting the word 'Allah' as firemen broke into her apartment, witnesses said.

Abdussalam, who police said was upset over the breakup of her marriage and an eviction notice, was arrested.

Nancy Uzo, spokeswoman for St John's Episcopal hospital in Far Rockaway, said a girl, believed to be 7 years old, had died. A boy, thought to be 4, was in critical condition, she said. Both suffered massive internal injuries, fractures and cardiac arrest, said Charles de Gaetano of the emergency medical services.

Three of the woman's other children were in the apartment in Far Rockaway at the time but were not harmed. It was not known if they saw their siblings being thrown from the window, police said.

The woman, believed to be the mother of the children, was taken into custody at 2:20 pm (1820 GMT), five minutes after the children fell, said police spokesman detective Joseph McConville.

Night stalker sentenced to death

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 6, (AP): "Night stalker" Richard Ramirez sneered at a jury's verdict that he die in the gas chamber for his 13 satanic murders, muttering "Big deal. Death always went with the territory. See you in Disneyland."

The black-clad killer, unrepentant to the end, made his comment in an underground garage as he was taken back to jail moments after a jury recommended the death penalty for his gruesome crimes.

His Disneyland comment apparently referred to the plea for mercy that had marked his attorney's closing argument.

"Mr Ramirez will die in prison," defence attorney Ray Clark had argued, insisting that a life sentence was sufficient punishment.

"Life imprisonment without possibility of parole means he will never see Disneyland again," said the lawyer. "He will never be free again."

But the jury voted 19 times for death on each of the special circumstances attached to his 13 murder convictions. Ramirez also was convicted of 30 felonies including burglary and sex crimes. Those felonies and the crime of multiple murders constituted special circumstances warranting the death penalty.

"There's no punishment that could fit this crime," Judi Arnold, whose parents Maxon and Lela Kneiding were butchered, said tearfully after Wednesday's verdict.

"I have to live the rest of my life seeing my parents and what Mr Ramirez did to them."

Some jurors said their dreams were haunted by the grisly details of the murders.

"I have nightmares all the time about the crimes," said juror Cynthia Haden. "I'll get over it. But I'll never be the same. I'll never look at people the same way."

She and others said they were horrified when they learned that victims' throats had been slashed and one woman's eyes had been gouged out.

The 29-year-old Ramirez, a drifter from El Paso, Texas, was impassive as superior court Judge Michael Tynan read the word, "death" 19 times in announcing the jury recommendations.

The slender, shaggy-haired Ramirez, wearing a black shirt and black slacks but minus his usual dark glasses, rocked back and forth in his chair and craned his neck to peer at spectators.

Tynan will formally sentence Ramirez on Nov 7. He has the option of reducing the sentence to life without parole.

"He got what he deserved," said deputy district attorney P. Philip Halpin who spent four years prosecuting Ramirez. He had described the defendant as "a miserable human being" who killed for self-gratification.

Defense attorney Daniel Hernandez said he was saddened at the verdict.

"I think all human beings are deserving of our sympathy and should not have their lives taken in the streets, in our courts or in the gas chamber," he said.



Egg, ketchup protest

Disney chief executive Michael Eisner was pelted with eggs and ketchup yesterday when he arrived at the Paris Stock Exchange to announce the sale of stock in the New European Disneyland.

The expression of discontent came not from stock traders, but angry young communists, some sporting masks of Disney characters, who were protesting government spending on park-related infrastructure.

EuroDisneyland SCA, the company building the park

outside Paris, said it plans to raise 6.18 billion francs (\$970 million) on European stock exchanges with an issue of 85.9 million shares priced at 72 francs (\$11.6) each.

Picture top shows president of Walt Disney Company, Frank Wells, holding hands with Minnie Mouse Oct 5 after the announcement in London of the EuroDisneyland share price of 707 pence. Bottom, a demonstrator hurls eggs at Walt Disney executives (Reuters wirephoto).

Rape case deal struck

Victim asked for rape: jury

NEW YORK, Oct. 6, (AP): A teenager charged in the central park "wilding" attack pleaded guilty yesterday to robbery and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in exchange for a one-year jail sentence.

The deal means Jermain Robinson, 15, who will receive youthful offender status, could be called to testify against other youths who allegedly raped and beat a woman jogger and left her near death in the park on April 19.

Robinson pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery before state supreme court justice Thomas B. Galligan, who set sentencing for Dec 14.

The plea pertained to an attack on John Loughlin, a 40-year-old banker who was knocked down and had his radio stolen as he jogged around the reservoir in the park.

During the 10-minute proceeding, the judge named the six youths charged in the attack of the woman jogger and asked Robinson if he participated in the attack on the man along with those youths.

"Yes, sir," Robinson responded.

PORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, Oct. 6, (AP): Jurors said they acquitted a rape defendant because the alleged victim's clothing — a tank top, a sheer short skirt and no underwear — suggested she had "asked for it."

The woman's lawyer called the decision "scary." "I thought this was 1989," said Alexander Siegel. "Every time a female goes out alone she has to look in the mirror and think is the dress appropriate or does it risk violence to her body and mind?"

On the night the 22-year-old Coconut Creek woman said she was raped, she wore a tank top and a short, white lace skirt without underwear, according to testimony.

The woman was not in court Wednesday when the jury of three men and three women found Steven L. Lord, 26, not guilty. The woman said Lord abducted her Nov 6 from a parking lot and forced her into her car, pulling over twice to rape her at knifepoint.

Galligan also warned the boy that if he failed to live up to the terms of agreement, he would face up to 10 years in prison. He also told him that if he got in trouble before sentencing, the plea would stand but the promised sentence would not.

Linda White, Robinson's mother, was in court as well and the judge repeatedly asked the boy if his mother was familiar with the terms of the deal. Robinson said she was.

Youthful offender status means Robinson's record could eventually be wiped clean; a clean record would mean, for example, that he could someday apply to become a police officer.

Yorkshire Ripper's wife awarded damages

LONDON, Oct. 6, (AP): The court of appeal reserved judgment yesterday on 600,000 pounds (\$960,000) in damages awarded to the wife of a mass murderer following a libel suit against the satirical magazine Private Eye.

The money awarded Sonia Sutcliffe in May was the highest ever made by a British jury. Her husband Peter was dubbed the Yorkshire Ripper when he terrorised northern England between 1975 and 1980, killing 13 women.

The court did not say when it would make its ruling, but they are generally issued within two or

three weeks.

Mrs Sutcliffe sued Private Eye for alleging in its January 1981 "Street of Shame" column, repeated in February 1983, that she sold her story to a tabloid newspaper for 250,000 pounds (\$400,000) after carousing with its reporters at a hotel.

At the conclusion of the 2 1/2-day appeal hearing yesterday, Mrs Sutcliffe's lawyer Geoffrey Shaw said his client would be willing to have the court reassess the award if it appeared the ruling might be against her.

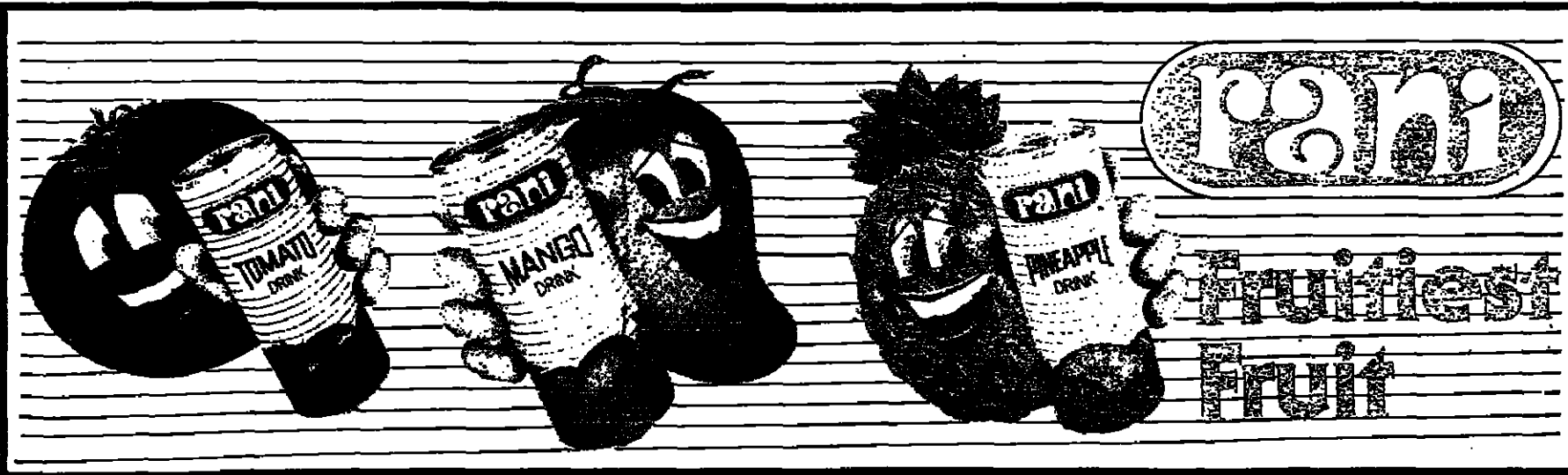
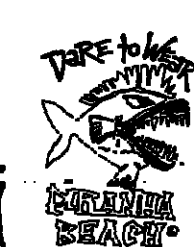
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Jury convicts Bakker of \$3.7m fraud

'It's not over,' Evangelist released on bail

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, Oct 6, (AP): PTL evangelist Jim Bakker was convicted yesterday of \$3.7 million, money the jury foreman said corrupted a minister who started out to do good.

"He was called by God. But eventually the money became too much for him," said foreman Ricky Hill, who said during jury selection that he was a Christian. "We kept looking for something from the defense and we never saw it."

Bakker faces a maximum sentence of 120 years in prison and \$5 million in fines. The US district court jury convicted him of all 24 counts in the indictment, which charges he oversold lodging guarantees, called "lifetime partnerships," at his Heritage USA religious retreat.

The message is you can't lie to the people and use television and the mails to get them to send you money," said prosecutor Deborah Smith. "It doesn't matter who you are or how well known you are, you simply can't do it."

Defence lawyer George C. Davis said the verdict would be appealed. Bakker said he would appeal.

Prosecutors said Bakker diverted \$3.7 million in ministry funds for personal use while knowing PTL was in financial trouble. He used money from PTL for vacation homes in California and Florida, a lakefront parsonage, a houseboat, Rolls-Royce and Mercedes cars and more peculiar luxuries such as an air-conditioned doghouse.

Bakker's wife, Tammy Faye, said she and her husband would return to Orlando, Florida, where they moved the die-hard remnants of their ministry. The PTL television ministry, like other such ministries, used television to spread its word and raise money.

"It's not over until it's over," added Mrs Bakker during a news conference after the verdict. Hundreds of Bakker faithful and the lunchtime curious flocked around the courthouse, and Mrs Bakker serenaded them with a verse of "On Christ, the solid rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

Bakker was freed later yesterday on \$250,000 bond imposed by US district court judge Robert Potter. The judge set sentencing for Oct 24.

"I'm going to keep my faith in God and I'm going to go see Tammy now. I feel sad but encouraged in God," Bakker said, smiling in a brief mid-afternoon statement to reporters. He said he was "still innocent of the charges against me."

Potter said he granted bond reluctantly because Bakker faithful had a "Jim Jones mentality" and might help him flee the country.

"They think he could walk on water," Potter said.

Davis declared the reference to the 1978 murder-suicide of 900 followers of Jim Jones' cult in Jonestown, Guyana, "Horrible, absolutely uncalled for."

Bakker showed little emotion as the verdict was read. Tears welled in the eyes of Mrs Bakker, who also received large bonuses from PTL but was not charged with any crimes.

They jury foreman said he was unwayed by Bakker's testimony, in which he defended his earnings as reasonable for someone who raised millions of dollars for the work of the lord.

Trial testimony showed PTL paid \$265,000 to Jessica Hahn to cover up the sexual encounter with Bakker that led to his resignation from PTL in 1987.

"I'm sorry I don't have a song to sing like Tammy but I know this is God's amazing grace," Ms. Hahn said in a statement after the conviction.

Bakker recites a psalm to reporters (Reuters wirephoto)



Earth's oldest rocks found

ST LOUIS, Oct 6, (AP): A summer of ordinary geologic investigation in a remote area of Canada has reaped an unexpected scientific bonanza: Rocks that are the oldest known on earth, nearly 4 billion years old.

"It was pure scientific luck," said Samuel Bowring, a geologist at Washington University who has been conducting research in Canada's northwest territories since 1979. "I actually had predicted these rocks were going to be very young. Maybe 2 billion years old."

"If I had known, of course, that I was looking at the world's oldest rocks, I would have done this sooner."

He said studying the chemistry of the old rocks will give researchers insight into the early history of earth and its nearby planets.

The rocks are only about 600 million years younger than the earth itself, which scientists believe was formed about 4.6 billion years ago.

For a little more perspective: Scientists say the first dinosaurs began to roam the earth about 200 million years ago, and the first human ancestors who used tools didn't show up until about 2 million years ago.

Few rocks of this age are left, since the earth's surface has been churned and recycled by meteorites, volcanoes, erosion and the slow but constant movement of the continents. The oldest rocks left in Missouri, for example, are roughly 1.48 billion years old, Bowring said. The Canadian rocks already were about 2.5 billion years old when the Ozark Mountains were being formed in the south-central United States.

The oldest known rocks before Bowring's discovery were about 3.8 billion years old, found in the Isukasia region of Greenland in the 1970s, he said.

"With this new discovery, we are a giant step further in our search for knowledge of what happened in the earth's first 800 million years," Bowring said. "The question now is whether rocks from 4.6 to 3.8 billion years were mostly destroyed by meteorite impact or whether they never formed in great volume in the first place."

Bowring, an assistant professor of earth and planetary sciences, collected the granitic rocks in 1986 from a remote, unpopulated area north of Yellow Knife and Great Slave Lake, where he has been conducting a mapping project initiated by the geological survey of Canada.

"We didn't go looking for the oldest rocks," he said. "We were just rewarded for doing basic, fundamental science."

He extracted from the rocks tiny crystals of the mineral zircon, and used an instrument called a mass spectrometer to measure how much of various isotopes of uranium and lead, they contained. Knowing how fast uranium decays and determining how much uranium had decayed, leaving lead, allowed him to calculate that the rocks were older than 3.84 billion years.



Members of Monty Python's Flying Circus, front row (left to right) Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Terry Jones; back row (left to right) Graham Chapman, John Cleese and cartoonist Terry Gilliam. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graham Chapman dead

LONDON, Oct 6, (AP): Graham Chapman, a founding member of the British comedy group Monty Python, died of cancer as his former colleagues talked to him about the good old days, his adopted son said yesterday. He was 54.

Chapman was rushed to Maidstone General Hospital in southeast England from his nearby home on Tuesday and died there on Wednesday night, said his manager, Don Epstein. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

When Chapman died, fellow Monty Python comics Michael Palin and John Cleese were at his bedside, said the adopted son, John Tomiczek. Another member of the troupe, Terry Jones, visited him earlier.

Chapman, an admitted homosexual and reformed alcoholic who smoked a pipe, told reporters in August that a dentist found a cancerous growth on his tonsils during a

routine examination. Later tests showed he was also suffering from cancer of the spine, he said.

He returned to his home last month and was quoted as telling the Sun, Britain's largest circulation newspaper, that he had beaten the disease.

Tomiczek said: "Graham had been ill for some time. He had been given the all clear once, but it was a very virulent strain of the cancer."

He said he sat with Chapman for five hours on Wednesday but left for a moment to allow Cleese and Palin a few moments alone with their friend.

"John Cleese was with him and so was Michael Palin when he died," Tomiczek said. "I wasn't there at the time, I had just left."

Chapman was educated at Cambridge University and qualified as a doctor before

turning to comedy. In 1968, he teamed up with Cleese, Palin, Jones, Eric Idle and Terry Gilliam to form the television series "Tommy Python's Flying Circus."

The show made its debut on the British Broadcasting Corp. on Oct 5, 1969, in a slot previously filled by a Sunday religious discussion. The last original show was broadcast in December 1974.

The group's madcap and irreverent approach to comedy was a hit both in Britain and abroad.

Chapman often appeared as a stuffy army officer with a comical upper-class accent. He sometimes appeared in full uniform to announce that a sketch was being stopped because it was too silly.

The group celebrated its 20th anniversary three weeks ago by filming a television special to be released later this year.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: The Oak Ridge Boys say their meeting with US President George Bush this year influenced their latest album, the "Americana Dream."

After the president identified the quartet as his favourite singing group, band members Donnie Allen, Joe Bonsall, Richard Sterban and Steve Sanders were invited to one of Bush's inaugural balls.

The group, known for such hits as "Elvira" and "It's Gonna Take A Lot Of River," first met Bush in 1983. They were reluctant to press for another meeting, but Bush made a point of summoning the group from a holding area filled with celebrities, Bonsall said.

"Walking past the Kevin Costners and the Chris Evertes, it was such a weird feeling. And we get down there and there was the President and Barbara Bush and a little group of people. We come in and Barbara hugs all of us and our wives," Bonsall said recently. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: "Kung Fu" actor David Carradine has been sentenced to two days in jail and a month on a road maintenance crew for drunken driving.

Carradine, 48, on Friday also was ordered to do 100 hours of community service and placed on three years' probation.

The actor was arrested Sept 8 after his vehicle was seen straddling the centre line, and his blood-alcohol level was measured at 0.17 per cent, more than twice the legal limit of 0.08, said deputy city attorney Lisa Kimmel.

Carradine pleaded no contest to driving under the influence of alcohol. (AP)



What a knock-out!

The Princess of Wales (centre) laughs during the presentation ceremony of the Cartier ladies doubles charity tennis tournament in London on Oct 4.

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin: A judge sentenced Yankee outfielder Luis Polonia to 60 days in jail for having sex with a 15-year-old girl at a hotel room in August.

"I made a mistake, and I'm really sorry for it," Polonia told circuit judge Thomas Doherty before he

First in Britain Opera for the deaf

LONDON, Oct 6, (AP): Deaf people are being encouraged to spend a night at the opera when the Libretto will be translated simultaneously into sign language by a man at the side of the stage.

The venture announced last Wednesday is believed to be the first in Britain and possibly the world, said Vronke Pomorski, whose opera Brava touring company will be "signed" when it performs two one-act operas in England.

Both operas are comedies and run about 55 minutes each. "The Old Maid And The Thief" by Gian Carlo Menotti, which has four singing roles and one walk-on part and "La Rita" by Gaetano Donizetti, which has three voice roles.

"The singer will be a professional sign-language expert, Peter Lewellyn-Jones, said Pomorski.

sentencing Monday. "I'm a human being and anybody can make the mistake I made."

Doherty also fined Polonia \$1,500 and ordered him to contribute \$10,000 to the Sinai Samaritan Medical Centre's sexual assault treatment centre. (AP)

ST LOUIS, Missouri: A cockatoo said "Bye, mom" before escaping from its cage, according to its owner, who is trying to get the bird back.

Kay Churan of Rockford, Illinois, said she lost the 5-year-old female lesser sulphur cockatoo on Saturday when the cage door popped open as her luggage dolly hit a bump at a hotel.

Churan, who was in town for the Great American Kaycee Show, one of the nation's largest bird shows, says the 15-inch (38-centimetre) long bird is worth about \$1,000.

Churan said she got the cockatoo, which is white with a yellow crest and does not have a name, "right out of the jungle" and invested a lot of time in training it to be a show bird.

"She was just beginning to act like a young lady," said Churan, who is offering an unspecified reward for its return. (AP)

TURIN, Italy: Two bandits forced a goldsmith to pull off a Turin highway and stole a nine-pound (4-kilogramme) silver soccer ball worth more than \$100,000, police said.

The ball, a trophy to be presented to the outstanding goalkeeper at the 1990 World Cup Soccer championships in Italy, had been on a display at a jewellery exhibit in Turin, in northwest Italy. At the close of the exhibit Sunday, the trophy was entrusted to artisan Angelo Ameglio, who intended to bring it to his home in nearby Asti.

The goldsmith barely made it out of Turin before the robbers pulled alongside him Sunday night and forced him off the road at gunpoint. heen close to \$10 million.

A representative of the salvage operation has said the haul could be worth up to \$1 billion, based on a consultant's examination of a "double eagle" gold coin recovered from the Central America.

"We hope to be rich," Thompson said with a smile. He said private investors have a 66 per cent share of the potential revenue, with a consortium that includes crew members owning the rest.

US marshals "arrested" the treasure under an old admiralty legal proceeding. The gold was documented, loaded into two armoured trucks and taken to an undisclosed location.

Hotline for tales of the bizarre

ROCKVILLE, Maryland, Oct 6 (AP): There's a lot of strange stuff happening out there — tales of poltergeists, swamp monsters, maybe even dinosaurs still crashing through African jungles — and Mark Chorvinsky has opened a "Strange Hotline" to hear all about it.

"The world is a pretty strange place," says Chorvinsky, 35, a black-clad archivist of the bizarre and investigator of the weird who lives on a quiet, tree-shaded street in this Washington suburb.

"Everybody knows of something strange that has happened to them, but they never talk about it," he says. "The only time it's safe to talk, it seems, is around a campfire or during hall-oween."

Now they can dial the "Strange Hotline" at 1-900-820-8361 to share a scary encounter with the unknown, or hear a tape of Chorvinsky describing some of his favourites. Among them are the lizard man of south Carolina, the horrific winged Jersey devil, the Manila vampire, and a haunted stretch of rural Maryland highway where "the dreaded scary yow" has been spotted by motorists.

Chorvinsky recently listened to "one of the most amazing stories I've ever heard" from a taped message left by an anonymous hotline caller, an Arizona woman who bought a giant cactus as a house plant.

A few days later, she was alarmed to see the cactus moving its prickly arms. She fled the house with her children just before the cactus exploded, releasing swarms of scorpions.

That's the sort of thing that sends agreeable tingles down Chorvinsky's spine and fills the pages of Strange magazine, a twice-a-year compendium of weird happenings that Chorvinsky founded and edits for an estimated 4,000 readers.

He's also a professional magician who performed at the White House last year, an author who is planning a biography of Merlin The Magician and a filmmaker whose movie short, "Strante Tangents," was screened at the American Film Institute, the Library of Congress and film festivals at Cannes, Berlin and Los Angeles.

"It's about a young sorcerer who tries to save her dying master with the help of her friend, a 3-foot-tall talking salamander," Chorvinsky says.

To help pay the bills, he operates a science fiction and magic shop in a Rockville shopping mall where customers can satisfy their appetites for strange goods. The shelves are stuffed with dragons and wizards, crystal balls, Ninja swords, tarot cards, horror movie classics and fantasy games titled "Skulls and Scraggygott Green" and — for laughs — "Batwinged Bimbos From Hell."

Although his bushy hair, beard, mustache and suit — all in black — gave him a slightly fiendish look, Chorvinsky is nobody's wacko. He's a good-natured sceptic who directs a global network of tipsters and investigators who track down reports of strange phenomena for scholarly discussion in his magazine.

Ruling against Santeria ritual

Animal sacrifice

MIAMI, Oct 6, (UPI): A federal judge ruled yesterday that it is illegal for members of a church that belongs to a cult-like religion to perform animal sacrifices as part of its rituals.

The church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, which belongs to the Santeria religion, charged in lawsuit that the city of Hialeah violated its civil rights by prohibiting animal sacrifices.

Santeria is not socially accepted by many, and most of its religious activity occurs in the home. Rituals include the sacrifice of animals such as chickens, pigeons, doves, ducks, guinea fowl, goats, sheep and turtles.

Plaintiffs sought unspecified damages and the right to perform sacrifices on church premises and in their homes.

"The (city) ordinances are not targeted at the church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye and practitioners of Santeria, but are meant to prohibit all animal sacrifice, whether it be practiced by an individual, a religion, or a cult," US district judge Eugene Spellman said in his 50-page ruling.

The ruling upholding the city's actions was issued following a non-jury civil trial that lasted about a week and ended more than a month ago.

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'Oohs and aahs' as richest shipwreck of gold in US history comes ashore

NORFOLK, Virginia, Oct 6, (UPI): A jubilant salvage crew hauled more than a tonne of gold into port yesterday from the richest shipwreck in US history — a sunken 19th century steamer with a trove worth up to \$1 billion.

"Gold lots of it," shouted Bob Evans, project director for the Columbus America Discovery group, as hundreds of cheering, snapped pictures and craned their necks to get a view of the loot.

"It's been a long time getting here — 132 years," said Evans, 35, of the Sept 12, 1857, sinking of the sidewheel steamer SS Central America that took down 423 passengers and a heavy load of gold during an Atlantic hurricane.

automatic weapons patrolled Outer berth at Town Point Park as the R/V Arctic Discoverer, the ship that led the exploration mission, pulled into port at 11:45 am.

Crates full of gold coins and bars were carefully carried ashore and temporarily turned over to the marshals under a writ of ancient admiralty law. The principal director of the salvage operation, Tom Thompson, 37, was made "substitute custodian" to protect the treasure and site of the shipwreck.

The crowd let out "oohs and aahs" as the shiny gold was held up from a table covered by blue velvet. Some people climbed up on each others' shoulders.

month about 200 miles (320 km) off Charleston, South Carolina. The Columbus America Discovery group of Columbus, Ohio, an organisation of 120 investors and scientists, organised the treasure hunt in 1987.

Some investors were in the crowd of relatives and curious onlookers.

"I think of myself as one lucky dude," said Jeff Keeler, 48, owner of a construction business in Columbus. Keeler said he and his wife invested \$125,000 in the project, which he called "a roll of the dice."

The exact value of the gold is not known, the Columbus America organisers said. Total investment at this point has

been close to \$10 million. A representative of the salvage operation has said the haul could be worth up to \$1 billion, based on a consultant's examination of a "double eagle" gold coin recovered from the Central America.

US marshals "arrested" the treasure under an old admiralty legal proceeding. The gold was documented, loaded into two armoured trucks and taken to an undisclosed location.

MEDICAL FILE

Nibbling may save you

BOSTON, Oct 6, (Reuters): Men who eat many small meals each day instead of three large ones may face a lower risk of heart disease, researchers from the University of Toronto report.

Dr David J. A. Jenkins and his colleagues found that when seven male volunteers ate 17 snacks per day instead of three meals with the same nutritional value and calories their cholesterol levels dropped more than eight per cent.

In addition, the amount of so-called "bad" cholesterol declined by nearly 14 per cent when they were on the "nibbling diet" for two weeks, the researchers reported in the latest issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The finding "is consistent with the claim that increasing meal frequency, while maintaining a constant caloric intake, may have a role in the prevention of heart disease," the researchers concluded.

Previous research indicated eating the same amount of food in smaller amounts may have several benefits, including lowering the risk of heart disease. The new study seems to confirm the eating approach lowers cholesterol and is the first to identify a possible explanation.

The researchers found evidence that eating smaller amounts seems to avoid requiring large amounts of insulin, which prevents triggering an enzyme that causes the liver to produce cholesterol, Jenkins said.

Based on the findings, Jenkins recommended people try to consume their daily food intake in smaller amounts but cautioned against increasing the overall caloric consumption.

"The danger is in eating more," Jenkins said.

Other nutrition experts said the findings were interesting but cautioned they need to be followed up with more research before reaching any conclusions.

"It's potentially exciting and potentially interesting. But obviously it needs a lot of further work before any recommendations can be made," said Dr Alan Chait of the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. "This should spur further studies using larger numbers of people for longer periods of time."

Dr Harold Solomon, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, also was cautious.

"I think it's very interesting but this is the kind of stuff that needs to be interpreted very carefully," he said. "It's an attractive but untested hypothesis."

For the study, seven healthy men ages 31 to 51 were placed on two diets containing the exact same amount of food for two

Hypertension: Even small changes in eating and living habits, such as reducing salt intake to less than five grams a day and limiting alcohol to two drinks daily, can help reduce high blood pressure risk, researchers said on Thursday.

The finding was based on a study of 201 men and women from 30 to 44 who showed a propensity towards high blood pressure, said the report from Northwestern University Medical School.

Over five years, 102 of those in the study were told to cut their weight by five per cent, limit sodium or salt intake to 4.5 grams daily, reduce alcohol consumption to two drinks a day and exercise 30 minutes a day at least three days a week.

Those who smoked were told to stop.

At the end of the study only one out of 11 who made the lifestyle changes had actually developed high blood pressure, compared to one in five among those who did not make the changes, the researchers said.

The study was published in this week's journal of the American Medical Association.

"Since an estimated 10 million men and women in the United States in this age range have high-normal blood pressure (the) potential saving in hypertension incidence could be as large as one million cases over five years," the study said. (Reuters)

Sex diseases: The world is facing an uncontrollable epidemic of sexually-transmitted diseases, health experts said on Thursday.

Dr Paddy Rowe of the World Health Organisation told delegates attending a world congress on fertility and sterility: "The message I want to bring to this conference is that we are on the brink of an uncontrollable epidemic."

US specialist Michael Rosenberg also said the problem was out of control, adding that public fears of catching sexual diseases had had little effect on preventing their spread.

The conference was told the epidemic was the major cause of infertility.

Chlamydia — one of the most virulent of such diseases, infects the cervix and affects sex hormones.

Rowe told the conference the diseases were to blame for almost 50 per cent of the cases of African women with blocked fallopian tubes, who had never been pregnant. (Reuters)

Aids virus: The chances of being infected with the deadly Aids virus from a blood transfusion is apparently lower than previously estimated and seems to be continuing to decrease, researchers reported on Wednesday.

In a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Red Cross estimated that in 1987 the odds of the average blood transfusion recipient being infected with the Aids virus was about one in 28,000.

Since the risk was decreasing by about 30 per cent each year, the danger is probably down to about one in 35,000 by now, Roger Dodd of the Red Cross said in an interview.

"The major finding is that the risk on a nation-wide basis is probably lower than that cited on the basis of other studies," Dodd said. (UPI)

Smoker's lungs: Doctors in Canada have discovered that tiny cells called neutrophils tend to collect in the lungs of active smokers where they are then free to slowly destroy the organ.

The finding, reported in Thursday's edition of the New England Journal of Medicine, may help explain why smokers are more likely to develop emphysema, a potentially fatal lung disease.

Past research has suggested that when the normally disease-fighting neutrophils are exposed to cigarette smoke, they release an enzyme that attaches itself to the lung tissue and begins to destroy the lungs' elastic properties.

In addition each puff of smoke may temporarily inhibit a protein that normally protects the lungs from the destructive enzyme.

With too many puffs over too many years, the lungs become less elastic and breathing becomes increasingly difficult.

The research, led by Dr William Macnee of St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, found that the lungs of active smokers tended to hoard the neutrophils. (Reuters)

A tobacco ban: Smokers in Britain will soon face the sack for lighting up cigarettes while they are at work, it was reported in London on Friday.

In a major coup for the anti-smoking lobby, a local authority last night announced a tobacco ban in all its buildings.

Gloucestershire County Council in southern England has warned its employees to stop smoking at work or face dismissal.

A variety of organisations across Britain have already acted against smoking. (Kuna)

weeks each. One diet involved eating three meals while the second involved eating 17 hourly snacks all day.

When the men were on the snacking diet the amount of cholesterol in their blood was 8.5 per cent lower than when they

were on the three-meal diet, the researchers reported.

The multiple-meal diet had no apparent effect on weight, contradicting previous studies indicating snacking may be a good way to lose weight, the researchers noted.



Noriega leans through a barred window in his command headquarters to wave to supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

US suffers a Bay of Pigs, says Noriega

Endara safe in hiding: thugs attack opposition

PANAMA CITY, Oct 6, (Reuters): Panamanian opposition leader Guillermo Endara, who disappeared yesterday after a squad apparently from the security forces attacked his offices, was free and in hiding, a spokesman for his coalition said today.

"I have heard through his family that he is well, that he is in a safe house," spokesman Anel Beliz told Reuters.

Beliz said he could not comment on reports that Endara was arrested and then released after the intervention of foreign diplomats.

Endara took refuge in the Vatican embassy in Panama City, a lawyer

for the opposition said.

"He is in there and he is safe," the lawyer for one of three opposition political parties said upon entering the grounds of the Vatican embassy today.

A US embassy official said Endara was free and unharmed, saying, "he is not in custody and he is safe. I have no reports of anyone being arrested."

Endara left his offices last night after they were attacked by about 30 people, believed to be from the Panamanian security forces, who fired

tear gas and smashed windows.

He disappeared after leaving the building with his hands on his head. He had told reporters earlier he was under house arrest at the offices.

Endara is in the third week of a hunger strike to press military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega to step down.

The attack on his offices came two days after a coup attempt against Noriega.

Ten people were killed and 37 arrested following the abortive coup, including three senior officers. It was the most serious challenge Noriega has faced since he took over the armed forces in August 1983.

Witnesses said several armed men wearing civilian clothes arrived at Endara's offices before the attack and took away two people, one of them the opposition leader's chief bodyguard and the other a photographer working for the coalition.

The attack came as Noriega, apparently seeking popular support, said the United States had suffered another "Bay of Pigs."

"They were involved in this coup as well," Noriega told an audience of women's groups in the town of Santiago.

"Here they faced a new Bay of Pigs because they left in the lurch those they had bribed and they could not succeed because dignity is stronger than brute force," he added, referring to the abortive US-backed attempt to invade Cuba.

Noriega said the United States had helped the plotters with money, bribes and advice, and some of the 15,000 US troops in Panama had blocked roads from military barracks, trying to prevent reinforcements from arriving at his headquarters.

Noriega said the coup plotters had moved Endara to safety so they could later appoint him president.

Endara ran as opposition presidential candidate in elections last May which were annulled by the government, citing foreign interference. The opposition said it won the vote by a three-to-one margin.

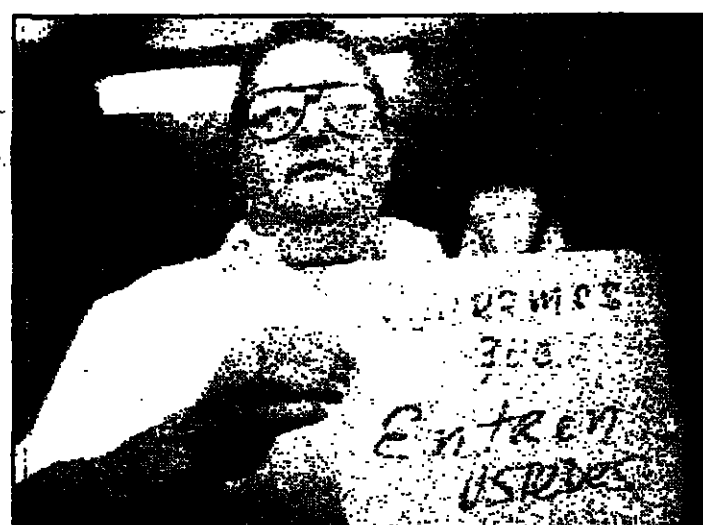
In Washington, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the rebels contacted US military officials in Panama and requested blockage of routes leading to the headquarters building where Noriega was. But he said President George Bush did not order the routes blocked.

Cheney said yesterday rebel officers in Panama asked the US military as early as Sunday night to help them in a coup by blocking two roads — roads that US forces indeed later controlled.

Spurned
The Senate spurned an effort yesterday by a frustrated Sen. Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, to give President Bush explicit authority to order a US military abduction of Noriega.

Helms, disgusted that US troops did not seize Noriega in this week's Panamanian coup attempt, said such general authority already exists in the law but a cautious and bumbling administration failed to respond to an appeal by coup leaders to take custody of the man under indictment on US drug charges.

Senate leaders objected strongly to Helms, saying he would give the president authority not provided under the constitution. The Senate voted 74-25 to kill his proposal, presented as an amendment to major anti-drug legislation, and the leadership offered a weak alternative that expresses that Bush has the authority under the constitution to protect the Panama Canal.



Endara shows a sign to journalists through a window of his office which reads: "We wish that you could enter." (Reuters wirephoto)



Workers clean up Noriega's command post next to a pock marked wall which was damaged while rebels and soldiers battled for control of the building. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli advisers got hint

Noriega warned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct 6, (AP): Israeli bodyguards of Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega warned him several times before the latest thwarted coup to be wary of US-backed attempts to overthrow or assassinate him, the Hadashot daily reported yesterday.

The popular tabloid also said Israel concluded a large weapons deal with Panama three months ago, without giving any figures or further details.

The newspaper based its report about the bodyguards on an unnamed lieutenant colonel in the Israeli Air Force who visited Panama recently.

The officer reportedly said the security minister expected a coup attempt before Tuesday's failed effort to depose Noriega and also warned the Panamanian leader that the United States would likely finance such a move.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Motti Amichai said when asked about the Hadashot report: "Israel like other countries doesn't give details about these kinds of contacts with other countries, also about sales of military equipment or military know-how."

Jesse Jackson to host weekly syndicated TV show

NEW YORK, Oct 6, (UPI): The Reverend Jesse Jackson and Warner Bros. television executives announced yesterday the two-time Democratic presidential candidate will host a weekly television talk show to be syndicated throughout the United States beginning next year.

Jackson joined Dick Robertson, president of Warner Bros. Television Distribution, and Van Gordon Sautter, former president of CBS news, at a news conference to announce plans for the show, to debut in the fall of 1990.

Sautter and Grammy award-winning musician Quincy Jones will be the executive producers of the one-hour programme, called "Voices of America with Jesse Jackson."

Jackson said he will use his international contacts to interview world leaders of all viewpoints as well as non-political figures not usually seen on American television to create a free-wheeling debate on a variety of topics.

"There are critical issues with which we must wrestle and engage in dialogue," Jackson said.

Jackson said his programme will not be a platform for presenting his own views but a forum for competing ideas as he attempts to "expand the narrowly focused lens of the camera."

Jackson sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, winning 13 state primaries in the latter campaign, and is the president of Operation Push, a Chicago-based human rights organisation, and of the National Rainbow Coalition, a progressive political group.

Panama coup bid: lesson learnt

WASHINGTON, Oct 6, (Agencies): President George Bush's administration, viewing the Panamanian coup attempt as "our first bloodletting," says it learned some lessons for future crises, while Congress conducts its own post-mortem of the US response.

"I hope we will have learned some things from this and be a little better next time," a senior administration official said yesterday. But the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to say whether the administration regretted not intervening militarily in the effort to topple Panamanian defence forces chief Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The official said he did not want to tip his hand about what the United States might do if another coup is attempted.

As the administration defended itself against bitter criticism for not intervening, Senate Intelligence Committee chairman David Boren said his panel and the Senate Armed Services Committee are investigating the administration's handling of the coup attempt.

"We're going to get to the bottom of this," including the question of whether Panamanian rebels offered to release Noriega to US officials during the four- or five-hour period during which they reportedly had him in custody, Boren said.

Sen. Jesse Helms, a Republican, disputed the administration's assertion that the rebels refused to release Noriega, saying, "They (the rebels) told the US officers that they were holding Noriega captive, and requested US assistance to take custody of Noriega and remove him to the United States."

However, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the rebels refused in a "face-to-face contact" with a US military officer to turn over Noriega during the coup attempt.

Doomed
A variety of officials said Tuesday's attempted coup was doomed by a series of false assumptions and mistaken judgements by the rebels as well as by the US forces' lack of flexibility.

One US official said US forces in Panama were prepared for any contingency — "from the maximum all the way to the minimum." But the official said constraints were placed on Gen. Maxwell Thurman of the Southern Command, who assumed his duties in Panama just two days before the attempted coup.

The senior administration official, asked if the White House wished it had done things differently, replied, "yeah, a few things."

"This is our first bloodletting, if you will, first real kind of a crisis operation," the official said. "And every administration has a shakedown in one way or another and we've learned some things about our operation that we need to improve. And we'll improve them."

Cheney said yesterday rebel officers in Panama asked the US military as early as Sunday night to help them in a coup by blocking two roads — roads that US forces indeed later controlled.

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A woman member of the Group of Mothers and Relatives of Disappeared Persons watches the Salvadoran soldiers guarding the entrance of the Costa Rican embassy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Leftists storm embassy

13 held hostage; Costa Rican envoy freed

SAN SALVADOR, Oct 6, (AP): Leftist anti-government militants held 13 hostages at the Costa Rican embassy early today to protest alleged repression by the rightist government.

Costa Rican Ambassador Jesus Fernandez, who had been taken hostage with the others, was taken from the embassy compound late yesterday in an ambulance and two other diplomats who had been held were allowed to leave the offices.

Fernandez, who had heart bypass surgery two months ago, was walking but appeared to be breathing with difficulty as he left the building. A nurse told the Associated Press he was being taken to a hospital for an electrocardiogram.

The 20 people holding the embassy did not resist when Consul-General Humberto Murillo and First Secretary Rene Aldama left the third-floor offices to talk to Fernandez wife through the back gate. They said they would remain in the yard through the night as Costa Rican representatives.

The consul said four women and nine men were still being held hostage and were not allowed to come downstairs. Also in the offices but not being held hostage early today were four journalists, three

of them Americans.

Twenty members of an organisation of relatives of alleged political prisoners and people slain or "disappeared" in a decade of civil war took over the Costa Rican embassy last morning.

They said their action was intended to denounce what they say are increased violations of human rights since a rightist government took power June 1, and to pressure the administration "to take concrete measures to end the war."

The militants belong to a group called the Federation of Committees of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Disappeared and Assassinated People of El Salvador.

Fernandez said some of the demonstrators, mostly women, were armed. He did not say what type of weapons they carried, but reporters say what appeared to be a handgun tucked into the pants' waist of one demonstrator and several packers wrapped in newspaper with what looked like fuses.

The group's founder Maria de Ortiz said the occupation would last for an "indefinite" period to demand release of political prisoners.

هكذا انطلق

Top rebel slips out

MANILA, Oct. 6, (AP): The alleged chairman of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines slipped through a military dragnet under a power failure and escaped a raid in which his wife and five other people were arrested, officials said yesterday.

Troops captured Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, a member of the party's central committee, and the other rebels in Wednesday's raid on a rebel "safe house" in suburban San Juan, said Lt Col George Alino, who led the government team.

Mrs Austria-Tiamzon, 37, for whom a \$45,000 reward had been offered, is the wife of Benito Tiamzon, the alleged Communist Party chief.

Aino said government were

Filipino Muslim rebels ambush

ILIGAN, Philippines, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Muslim separatist rebels ambushed a lorry in the southern Philippines today, killing three civilians in the first violent incident ahead of a referendum for Muslim autonomy, the military said.

A military spokesman said the civilians were on their way to attend an information seminar on the autonomy issue when they were attacked in a mountain village in Rogongon, Lanao del Norte province, about 800 km (500 miles) southeast of Manila.

He said the victims were Christians.

One government trooper was wounded in an ensuing gunbattle with the rebels, he added.

The campaign for the November 19 referendum in several provinces and cities in the south began on Wednesday.

scheduled to raid the house Tuesday night but scuttled the plan because electricity in the area had not been restored after a power outage that hit a large portion of Manila the previous day.

He said a car believed to be carrying the leader drove out of the apartment late Tuesday and the raiders waited for it to return.

At daybreak, another car carrying Mrs Austria-Tiamzon and her driver was also set to depart, prompting agents to block the vehicle and proceed with the raid, he added.

To go ahead with visit Plot to kill Cory foiled

MANILA, Oct. 6, (AP): President Corazon Aquino said yesterday she would proceed with next month's trip to Canada and the United States despite an alleged assassination plot and allegations that Ferdinand Marcos' followers plan to foment unrest at home.

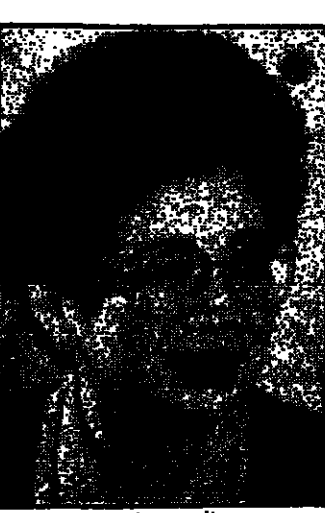
Mrs. Aquino issued the statement after officials said an alleged plot to kill the president was uncovered after almost a year of undercover surveillance.

The military chief also said that targets of the reported plot included Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, government and military figures and foreigners.

"All we can say for now is that intelligence reports indicate plans by rightist and leftist elements to take advantage of the divisiveness that would result if the remains of Mr. Marcos were allowed to be brought home at this time," Mrs Aquino said.

"I am going to Canada and the United States as planned," she added. Mrs Aquino is to arrive in the United States on Nov 9.

Security men were investigating a member of an honour guard for Aquino today after a bullet was found in his rifle, a spokeswoman said.



Aquino: visit

"But you know her, she's fatalistic. If it's going to come its going to come," Siyango said.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos at a briefing for cabinet members and congressmen on Wednesday revealed a plot to assassinate Aquino. Aides said the briefing was an intelligence update on the death last week in Honolulu of Marcos.

Aquino has ruled out the burial of Marcos' remains in the Philippines, citing national security reasons. Supporters of Marcos have asked the Supreme Court to overrule her.

The president has downplayed the alleged plot on her life. When asked about it, she merely said all she can say for now was that leftist and rightist elements might try to take advantage of a 'divisive' situation if Marcos' remains were allowed to be buried here.

In a dialogue with soldiers at Fort Magsaysay, Aquino warned troops against 'engaging in adventurism' and appealed to them to air their grievances to her, a state television report of the meeting said.

The military has since last year been receiving reports of an assassination plot against President Aquino and senior civilian and military officials, the armed forces chief said.

After briefing diplomats on the security situation in the Philippines, Gen. Renato de Villa told reporters the "intelligence informaton" has been gathered over the past year. He did not name any group involved in the reported plot.

"As a matter of course we informed the president of what we have observed from last year up to the present," De Villa said.

Marcos mass delayed a week

HONOLULU, Oct. 6, (Agencies): Funeral services for former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, who died on Sept 28 in a Honolulu hospital, have been postponed until Oct 13, family friends said yesterday.

A Catholic mass had been planned for today at co-cathedral St Theresa, but friends said it was delayed to allow time for the Philippine Supreme Court to consider a family request that Marcos' body be returned to his homeland for burial.

President Corazon Aquino has barred burial of Marcos' body in the country he ruled for two decades, but supporters of the ex-president have asked the high court to reverse the ban.

Resident delaying the funeral in order to await the court's decision, family friend Joe Lazo said more time was needed to prepare a temporary resting place for Marcos' remains.

A site at the valley of the Temple Cemetery, east of Honolulu, was being considered by the family.

Family spokesman Leslie Tan said the body would be moved to the cathedral for mass, followed by an ecclesiastical service.

"After that, I don't know yet what will happen," he said, when asked about where the body would be taken.

On Wednesday, the cabinet endorsed Aquino's decision to ban Marcos' body from burial in the country after Ramos briefed members of the alleged murder plot and other threats to the government.

Marcos supporters have offered to be jailed during burial of the former president in case Aquino allows the body to return from Hawaii.

A lawyer for Marcos' family said yesterday he may ask the courts to prevent the government from seizing the late president's body if it is shipped to the Philippines from Hawaii.

The lawyer, Juan T. David, said he would seek the order if the Supreme Court upholds Aquino's ban on the body's return. Last Monday, the court gave the government 10 days to respond to a petition to overturn the ban.

David said that if the Supreme Court upholds the ban, he would seek to prevent the government from seizing the body if it is shipped to this country as cargo.

"I will file a petition for prohibition enjoining officials of this government, from Cory down, from preventing the delivery by the collector of customs of the body," David said, referring to Aquino by her nickname.

David said the body was considered the "property" of the Marcoses and its shipment would fall under customs laws. He said the family had the option of shipping the body out of the United States but he did not know if there were actual plans to do so.

"If Cory dispatches three armed men to prevent the delivery, then she could be liable for robbery," David said.

"If on trial, these people testify that they were ordered by Cory to do it, then she could be a principal for robbery and liable to impeachment. This is very serious," David said.



Keepin' warm

Supporters of the late former president Ferdinand Marcos take a nap using his huge poster as a blanket at a sidewalk outside a military camp in Manila. They are holding nightly vigils hoping the government will lift its ban of a Philippine funeral for Marcos. (Reuters wirephoto)

Singapore won't allow US a base

Lee assures

JAKARTA, Oct. 6, (AP): Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said today that Singapore has no intention of letting the United States build a military base on its territory.

"There will be no American base in Singapore. It will be facilities in our bases that the Americans could use," Lee told reporters after discussing with President Suharto a proposal to allow US forces to use Singaporean military facilities.

Lee, who arrived in Jakarta today for a two-day unofficial visit, said he informed Suharto about a US proposal to develop military facilities in Singapore.

The proposal was only for a "modest increase of what the Americans are already doing with us," Lee said, adding that budgetary constraints would not allow the United States to build new military bases.

Lee would not give more details about the American proposal, but promised to make the issue public after meeting with other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

He said he also discussed the Cambodian situation with Suharto.

Asean, which groups Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei, should be able to increase the warring parties in Cambodia toward a settlement, he said.

Suharto said technicalities involved in normalising diplomatic relations between Indonesia and China should be finalised within a year, Lee said.

Indonesia suspended diplomatic ties with China two years after a communist coup attempt in Jakarta in 1965, accusing Beijing of involvement in the aborted rebellion.

Lee said Singapore, which also has no diplomatic relations with Beijing, was unconcerned about the Indonesian decision.

Singapore has assured Malaysia that a recent Washington report on the United States offering to step up military cooperation with the republic is without basis.

Aquino refuses to accept agrarian reform secretary's resignation

MANILA, Oct. 6, (AP): President Corazon Aquino refused today to accept the resignation of her outspoken agrarian reform secretary, who asked to step down after her confirmation stalled in Congress over alleged misconduct.

Miriam Defensor Santiago offered her resignation in a letter to Aquino and accused supporters of the late President Ferdinand Marcos of orchestrating a smear campaign against her.

Aquino said she would take the resignation letter under advisement and ask the secretary to "persevere."

Defensor Santiago was appointed agrarian reform secretary June 30, but her confirmation bogged down in the congressional commission on appointments.

Critics alleged she refused to give up an imported car which was impounded by customs in 1983, while she was a regional trial judge.

In her letter to Aquino, Defensor Santiago claimed the charges were made by corrupt employees whom she disciplined during her tenure as immigration commissioner.

Aquino said she sympathised with Defensor Santiago.

Had the resignation been accepted, it would have caused further delays in the government's land reform programme.

555
Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Seamen exploited Ship seized

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana, Oct. 6, (Reuters): A Cypriot-owned ship anchored in the Mississippi river has been seized by US marshals after 17 Filipino crewmen charged they were being illegally exploited.

US district court judge Marcel Livaudais ordered the M/V Evryalos, owned by Ocean Safety Shipping Limited of Nicosia, seized on Monday after the seamen filed suit claiming the ship owner paid them less than their contracts stipulated and forced them to work in unsanitary conditions.

Jerry Dodson, maritime attorney representing the seamen, told Reuters that all 17 are ill from having to cook with, drink and bathe in untreated Mississippi river water.

"Everybody knows the Mississippi is the sewer of the nation and they had to drink that stuff," he said.

Dodson said the suit seeks about \$66,000 in back wages for the 17, based on two days pay for each day since August 18 when the ship discharged its cargo, plus punitive damages for unsanitary living conditions.

He said the seamen want their contracts terminated and for the shipowner to pay to fly them back to the Philippines.

Nature seeks gunless society

MANILA, Oct. 6, (AP): A citizens' group today launched a petition drive to demand laws against brandishing weapons in public places as a formidable task in a country with an estimated 180,000 unregistered firearms.

Signs at banks, courts, government agencies and elsewhere ask patrons to "Please deposit your firearms" before entering.

The National Action for the Total Upliftment and Restoration of the Environment, or Nature, said in an inaugural press conference that its goal is to transform the Philippines into a "gunless society."

Nature chairman Reynaldo Pacheco said the group will try to collect one million signatures to present to congress.

Typhoon Angela hits Philippines

MANILA, Oct. 6, (AP): Typhoon Angela today swept across the northern Philippines and into the south China Sea, lashing the mountainous area with up to 175 kilometre (108 mile) per hour winds, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and only sketchy damage reports, officials said. Detailed damage and casualty reports from remote areas often take days or weeks to reach Manila because of poor communications.

The Philippine Red Cross said eight houses were destroyed in Nueva Vizcaya province and heavy rains were reported across northern Luzon, the main Philippine island.

Angela had packing peak winds of 175 kilometres (108 miles) per hour when it roared ashore early today but weakened by midafternoon to about 150 kilometres (93 miles) per hour, forecasters said.

The storm was moving west-northwest at 14 kilometres (9 miles) per hour.

The US military's Far East Network, which broadcasts television programmes to American forces at bases in the Philippines, described the storm as a "super typhoon."

INTERNATIONAL

Political season under way with Thatcher in full cry

LONDON, Oct 6, (AP): Having damned socialism and all its works in her usual uncompromising style, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was asked over lunch with foreign journalists how she could run a political campaign against Margaret Thatcher.

"I wouldn't. I'd vote for her," she replied. The instant, almost instinctive response

showed the British prime minister in full, combative cry as she goes into the 1989-90 political season, with three consecutive election victories behind her and every indication that she will go for a fourth.

Autumn in Britain means the annual party conventions, at which political leaders take stock of the year and promise victory next time.

Thatcher's Conservatives convene next week. The opposition Labour Party is halfway through its convention, buoyed by opinion poll leads and a conviction that after a decade of Thatcherism, The British are ready for a change.

Thatcher obviously disagrees, but she does so with the zeal and enthusiasm of a first-time candidate rather than a senior stateswoman

who turns 64 this month and is the longest-serving leader of a Western democracy.

She has been to Poland and talked to farmers who can't get permits to get equipment to grow crops. Last month, she was in Siberia and saw Soviets selling vodka to her press party, strictly for hard currency.

She had her sixth meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and was

struck once again, she says, by the enormous risks of switching rapidly from communism to a free market.

Her conclusion is characteristically simple: "There is no revision, refashioning or reform of socialism that is possible. There's only rejection of it."

This unwavering conviction that she is right

is a Thatcher hallmark. And any suggestion of second thoughts is quickly slapped down.

Lately, the Thatcher mystique through long-distance psychoanalysis. Leo Abse, a former Labour lawmaker, has just published a 288-page book whose central thesis is that Thatcher suffers from narcissism caused by an unloving mother.



A couple of East German refugees hug each other after their arrival in Hanover by train from Warsaw. (Reuters wirephoto)

Party is over, Hungary accepts

BUDAPEST, Oct 6, (Reuters): Two leaders of Hungary's ruling Communist Party clashed today over whether it should sign its own death warrant and embrace western-style democracy as a new socialist party.

Addressing a special congress of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party, its president Rezso Nyers urged 1,276 delegates to create a new, non-communist socialist party to fight multi-party elections due by mid-1990.

The party's historical role was coming to an end after more than 40 years of communist rule, he said.

"We need a new-style socialist party which is a successor but not a simple continuation of the party... The new party should not be a communist party."

But Karoly Grosz, who ousted veteran leader Janos Kadar as general secretary in May 1988 and led the party until his post was devalued in June, defended communist ideals.

"It is not the progressive values of the workers' movement that we have to deny, among these the ideals of communism, but rather the practice that discredited them," Grosz said.

Nyers is backed by prime minister Miklos Nemeth and reformist state minister Imre Pozsgay. With Grosz, they make up the four-man party leadership.

Nemeth has said he is prepared for the party to split rather than compromise with hardliners. Grosz attacked "radical extremists" in the party for saying they would not co-operate with others.

Reformers see Grosz was overtaken by the every reforms he unleashed in ousting Kadar. Since Kadar quit, historic taboos have been breached, market economies have put workers out of jobs and the party has launched a transition back to the multi-party system.

Many party members are crying out for reform after it was soundly beaten in four parliamentary by-elections this year by opposition groups likely to register formally as political parties under legislation later this month.

But others in the rank-and-file feel reform has already gone too far and leading party members predict a fierce struggle at the extraordinary congress, expected to last three days.

Nyers said the party should leave ideology to the individual and seek to draw in all social groups, including entrepreneurs.

Another 600 arrive in West

Exodus disrupted

HANOVER, Oct 6, (Agencies): A train carrying more than 600 East German refugees rolled into West Germany today after a similar exodus had been disrupted for several hours by thousands seeking to board the locked railcars.

The East Germans, chanting "Deutschland," and shouting thanks, left Warsaw, Poland, by train last night on a trip via their communist homeland. They arrived in Laatzen, a Hanover suburb, nearly 14 hours later.

The 633 refugees, who were accompanied on the train by West German envoys, cheered, whistled and hugged each other when a local politician welcomed them as "my countrymen."

They looked well-rested and more relaxed than those who arrived earlier in the week from Czechoslovakia.

West German officials and Red Cross workers readied temporary housing and other forms of care.

Those aboard had crowded West Germany's embassy in Warsaw in hopes of joining the East Germans who have made their way through Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Poland since mid-September.

West German radio and television reported that as soon as the train left, about a dozen more East Germans entered West Germany's embassy in Warsaw in hopes of gaining permission to go West. They crossed into Poland legally in private cars, Hessian Rundfunk radio said.

The ZDF television network said the train's original route was apparently changed to avoid a

repeat of earlier riots at the East German city of Dresden, where East Germans tried to board the trains from Prague to the West as they passed through.

Passenger Lutz Kopecky, 29, said East German police and state security agents lined the route yesterday. Stations were empty and the train never slowed or stopped before reaching West Germany, he said in an interview.

Another 386 East Germans who left via Hungary reached West German soil yesterday, border police said.

The exodus comes as East Germany, deeply embarrased by the flow of its citizens to the West, begins two days of celebrations marking the communist country's 40th anniversary.

Among those attending the festivities is Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is expected to discuss with East Germany's ageing hardline leaders how they plan to handle the westward flight that is draining much of East Germany's workforce.

West German radio said some people reportedly were "gravely injured" when East German police in Dresden prevented people from boarding trains heading West late Wednesday and early Thursday.

Also, 150 injuries and 80 arrests reportedly occurred during a demonstration on Monday in Leipzig by 20,000 East Germans.

The figures were cited at a prayer service in an East Berlin church late yesterday, the radio said without elaborating.

Walesa warns

All will leave

GDANSK, Oct 6, (UPI): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said yesterday there would be a mass exodus of people from some East bloc countries similar to that which took place from East Germany if the frontiers were opened for them.

He also said the economic situation in Poland is dramatic and said he would ask the United States during his visit in November for more economic aid.

Asked about the situation in East Germany, Polish southern neighbour of Czechoslovakia and other communist countries he said "nobody would stay to switch off light in these countries," if possible could travel freely.

Poland and Hungary have been the only East bloc countries whose citizens have passports at home and can travel freely.

The citizens of the other communist countries face trouble in getting passports and their freedoms have been limited.

"If the frontiers were opened, the earth would change its orbit because all people would go into one direction," he joked, meaning that the majority would go West.

Walesa blamed communist system for the situation saying the communist system can not guarantee freedom and sufficiently high living standards to their people.

Reform, Gorby advises E. Berlin

EAST BERLIN, Oct 6, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, visiting East Germany as an unprecedented refugee exodus there subsided, today nudged the country's rigid communist leadership to introduce reforms.

But the Soviet leader, in East Berlin to join celebrations marking this country's 40th anniversary, said the East Germans would have to decide what changes, if any, they should make.

"Those who take their inspiration from life and society do not have to fear anything," he said after laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

"We know our German friends well," he continued. "They are specialists in thinking things over and making corrections if necessary."

East Germany has been seriously shaken over the past month by a hectic dash to the West by more than 45,000 refugees fed up with East Berlin's stubborn refusal to introduce Gorbachev-style reforms.

But the Kremlin leader stopped short of openly prescribing his perestroika, saying: "The most important thing is that the citizens themselves decide."

Several thousand people, including many wearing the royal blue shirts of the official Free German Youth (FDJ) group and many plain-clothes police, turned up outside the tomb to see the Soviet leader on his first "meet-the-people" tour of the day.

Some called "Gorby, Gorby" and a few cried "we're staying here," to show they would not join those who have fled in the past month.

Apparently encouraging those determined to stay, the smiling Kremlin leader gave a group of teenagers some fatherly advice. "Don't panic, be patient, keep working for socialism," he said.

Gorbachev said he had full faith in the East Germans and denied suggestions the country was in danger.

"It's not comparable to our problems," he responded. "Surrounded by journalists at the tomb on East Berlin's elegant Unter Den Linden boulevard, he stressed several times he would not pressure the leadership here."

"If we had begun our perestroika on suggestions from abroad, and not from our own experiences, our own problems and our own people, nothing would have come of it," he said.

Gorbachev's confident answers kept him squarely on the narrow path diplomats here expected him to follow between his headline 77-year-old host, Erich Honecker, and the young reformers calling for more open policies here.

Security was heavy around the tomb and few onlookers could get past the fences, police and lines of FDJ members to mob him in scenes of "Gorbymania" like those he found when he visited West Germany in June.

The crowd kept politely quiet as he watched jackbooted army guards goose-step in front of the Grecian-style tomb and later talked with journalists in one corner of the large square cordoned off for him.

Setting the tone for what is likely to be a stormy visit, state-run East German television blacked out Gorbachev's arrival in an unprecedented insult to the Soviet leader.

Such arrival ceremonies, especially of such a prominent communist and world statesman, are normally covered live by television with great fanfare from start to finish.

There was no explanation why Gorbachev's arrival was shunned and even the state-controlled print media gave little attention to the Soviet leader's visit.

Gorbachev waved warmly as he descended the steps of his Aeroflot jet with wife Raisa at his side.

Soviet arms cuts to end bolt-out-of-the-blue type op

Chances high for accord: IISS report

LONDON, Oct 6, (Reuters): Unilateral cuts in the Soviet armed forces announced by President Mikhail Gorbachev will virtually end the threat of a surprise attack in Central Europe, a leading Western strategic think-tank says.

"The unilateral cuts remove... the so-called bolt-out-of-the-blue type of operation," said Francois Heisbourg, head of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS).

Presenting the IISS's annual report on the world military balance, he said the unilateral reductions will, once complete, virtually eliminate the surprise attack threat which has so long concerned NATO planners.

Heisbourg said the IISS estimated the chances were "reasonably good" for an agreement in 1990 at the 23-nation Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna on arms reductions.

The negotiations are aimed at scrapping thousands of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery pieces and combat aircraft held in Europe by both sides.

"Success in the CFE negotiations appears achievable on terms which would revolutionise the East-West security relationship," according to the report.

Focusing on relations within the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, Heisbourg said it was now composed of reformist and hardline states which can no longer be called allies.

He said it was unclear how the split between reformist Poland and Hungary and hardline Czechoslovakia and East Germany would affect the Eastern bloc and world security.

"If some of these countries cannot be called as reliable jumping off or transit bases for military operations by other members of the Warsaw Pact, notably the Soviet Union, that obviously has implications," Heisbourg said.

"In practical terms, we are at the beginning of a progress. How far will it go? That remains an entirely open question."

The report, for the first time, included military data provided by Moscow.

Heisbourg gave no figures for troop withdrawals so far. But he said the Soviets have begun pulling out crack units, including bridge-building units, and have announced that frontline divisions deployed in East Germany will be withdrawn.

"Some of these divisions are divisions which any NATO planner would like to see removed," said Heisbourg. "It's not as if the reductions were being focused on the substandard, second-rate military units."

Heisbourg cautioned, however, that Soviet conventional strengths still justified Western concern. Even after the promised cutbacks, the Soviets will still be capable of "major sustained offensive operations," he said.

He said the Warsaw Pact has been weakened by the political upheaval among its allies, such as by the broad reforms and political changes taking place in Poland and Hungary.

Both the reform-oriented countries and the orthodox communist hardliners, like East Germany, maintained their military ties with Moscow, but relations were strained with each other, said Heisbourg.

The institute survey said the long-range strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union remained "in rough parity."

Institute officials said their estimates of conventional strengths did not include Soviet cutbacks since Gorbachev announced the planned one-sided reductions.

For the second successive year, the institute warned of the spread of chemical weapons, particularly in the Middle East. It cited reports that Libya, Egypt and Israel have acquired them.

said the reductions affected those Soviet divisions which NATO planners would want to see removed.

In a speech to the United Nations last year, Gorbachev announced unilateral cuts of 500,000 troops, 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery pieces and 800 fighter aircraft by 1991.

"Eastern force reductions have begun and together with reorganisation plans and reported changes in doctrine and training patterns, support Soviet claims of new thinking," the IISS report said.

Inching towards peace

LONDON, Oct 6, (AP): Military spending is falling in many Black African states, and some of the continent's conflicts are inching toward resolution, says a survey published yesterday.

The process leading to Namibian independence "appears to be back on track" after being set back by the crossing of some 500 armed guerrillas from Angola to Namibia in April, said the international institute for strategic in its annual survey of the world military balance.

It said the guerrillas' movement across the border was contrary to the UN-sponsored agreement under which South Africa is to give up control of the territory, and was done "for purposes which remain obscure."

The report said there have been no major arms purchases in the region in the past year. South Africa is the only country that is increasing military spending.

There has been an overall downward trend for defence expenditure in the region over the last two years. Both in local currency terms and, more markedly, in dollar terms, it said.

Zimbabwe's expenditure is unchanged, but Mozambique is spending half the figure of three years ago, and Nigeria's defence budget is down 30 per cent in dollar terms, the report said. Uganda's spending also is lower, but information from other major countries is insufficient to form firm conclusions, it said.

In Mozambique, which is fighting a protracted war against Renamo rebels, "resolution may still remain distant," the report said, but neighbouring South Africa has distanced itself from Renamo and the guerrillas are reported to have had contacts with the government.

Entire and Tigrean rebels have succeeded in capturing Ethiopian-held territory, and have agreed to peace talks with the government, it said.

Meanwhile, the government that took power in Sudan in a bloodless coup in June "seems more determined to negotiate a settlement" with rebels in the south, but dialogue "has not been taken up as quickly as expected," the survey said.

China army unprepared

LONDON, Oct 6, (AP): Political turmoil in Beijing showed the Chinese army was unprepared and inappropriately trained to deal with internal security operations, the international institute for strategic studies said in a survey published yesterday.

Elsewhere in Asia, it said, Afghan rebels are suffering the fate of guerrillas forced to fight a conventional war, and India and Pakistan are investing heavily in their armed forces even though their relations are improving.

Defence spending in the region continues to rise, and if NATO, definitions are applied, Japan has become the second-largest defence spender among industrialised countries with budget increases of more than 4 per cent in 1989 and 1990, the survey said.

Defence spending also has increased in Taiwan, North and South Korea, Sri Lanka and the Philippines as well as in Australia, Malaysia and Thailand, which have announced ambitious modernisation programmes for their armed forces, it said.

The military balance 1989-1990, published by the institute, said the modernisation of the Chinese armed forces will suffer from the Western trade embargoes that followed the communist government's June crackdown on

demonstrators.

"The events themselves showed the people's liberation army to be generally unprepared and inappropriately trained for internal security operations," the survey said.

China's defence budget, which had been falling significantly for some years, is likely to increase following the confrontation and the heightening of the army's political profile, it said.

The survey said the degree of Sino-Soviet rapprochement signalled by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Beijing a few days before the crackdown, and the announced reductions of Soviet forces in Mongolia and the Far East, may permit further military reductions in China and faster reorganisation of its army.

In Afghanistan, the survey said, the Soviets handed over substantial amounts of equipment to the Afghan army following their Feb 15 withdrawal, including two Scud missile launchers and a reportedly large stock of missiles.

Afghan rebels, whose campaign against government forces has fallen short of predictions, "are now suffering the traditional fate of rebel movements forced to engage in conventional set-piece warfare," it said.

Debts, drugs: main threats

LONDON, Oct 6, (AP): Drugs, debt and the traumas of political shifts toward democracy are the major threats to security in Latin America, the international institute for strategic studies said yesterday.

Despite renewed regional and domestic peace talks, the level of guerrilla insurgency remained "unacceptably high" in many Latin American countries this year, the institute said in its annual report on the world's military balance.

Colombia, battling against "well-organised and often well-armed drug warlords," also is beset by violence caused by guerrilla groups, the institute said.

Some progress was made toward resolving the war in Nicaragua, with the five central American governments adopting a plan to demobilise the rebels, known as Contras, in return for a pledge of free national elections by February 1990, the institute said.

Outside of Nicaragua, the most serious threats in Central America were in El Salvador, where insurgency and counterattacks have continued despite President Alfredo Cristiani's call in his inaugural

address in June for a permanent dialogue with the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the report said.

The institute said it was encouraged when Argentine President Carlos Menem offered after his election to hold a "civilised dialogue" with Britain about restoring diplomatic relations. Both countries claim sovereignty over the Falkland Islands in the south Atlantic. Britain recaptured the islands in a 1982 war following an invasion by Argentina.

The institute said the last five years have witnessed the progressive transfer of political power from military juntas to more democratically elected governments in Latin America, many anxious to reduce defence expenditures.

While slashing defence budgets, these countries must also maintain internal security and compensate their military for the cuts and for their lost influence and prestige, the institute said.

In Argentina, for example, after a series of small-scale rebellions, the armed forces received four salary increases in the second half of last year, the institute said.

Troops move supplies into Armenia; blockade 'stays'

MOSCOW, Oct 6, (Reuters): Trains moved vital supplies into Soviet Armenia today, ending a blockade by workers in neighbouring Azerbaijan lasting for more than a month.

The official Tass news agency said hundreds of wagons rolled into the southern Soviet republic bordering Turkey, three days after the Soviet Parliament authorised the army to take over operation of the railways.

Tass said some 60,000 rail cars were trapped in adjacent regions.

Its report was dated Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, and issued jointly with Azeri-

form, Azerbaijan's news agency. The Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking by telephone from Yerevan, said earlier, however, troops sent to Armenia's southeast border following the parliamentary resolution had failed to break the Azerbaijani blockade.

"The situation is getting worse and worse," he said. "Nothing is getting through from Azerbaijan. I don't know what the troops are doing, but it isn't working."

A spokeswoman at the Armenian news agency Armenpress said 10 plane loads of

troops had arrived in Yerevan on Oct 3, the day the Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution empowering the army to take over the railways. The measure also banned strikes in key industries.

She said they were all sent down to the border with Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani enclave through which the main railway line passes.

Azerbaijani workers imposed a blockade of all road and rail links with Armenia in early August, seeking to starve the republic into submission in their long-standing territorial dispute.

More than 100 people have been killed in the

past 19 months in clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous province of Azerbaijan with a majority Armenian population.

Food is in short support in Armenia and even ambulances are subject to petrol rationing. Industry, deprived of raw materials, is at a virtual standstill.

A similar blockade has been in force for several months around Nagorno-Karabakh itself, where a special Kremlin commission has administered affairs since January with the help of 4,000 Interior Ministry troops.

هكذا من الأطل

India backs Najib's call to rebels to join govt

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 6, (AP): India's foreign minister said yesterday that his country supports Afghan President Najibullah's call for a ceasefire and his invitation to the Islamic rebels to join his government.

"Those who are trying to resolve the question by military means are only prolonging the agony of the people of Afghanistan," India's Foreign Minister, P.V.N. Rao, told delegates at the 44th General Assembly.

Rao said Afghan President Najib "recently made a series of far-reaching proposals for national reconciliation which, in our opinion, deserve serious consideration."

Najib has called for a ceasefire with the Islamic rebels trying to topple him and has invited all factions to join his administration in a coalition government.

The rebels, who call themselves the mujahedeen, or Muslim holy warriors,

have vowed to oust Najib and all other senior communist officials, and reject any call for a truce or a coalition with Najib.

India also criticised Fiji for allegedly trying to amend its constitution to block the majority Indian population there from dominating the government. Indians make up at least half the population, while Polynesians constitute about 44 per cent of the remainder.

"In Fiji, the efforts to institutionalise racial discrimination are continuing, with hardly any resistance from the international community," said Rao.

Most delegations that spoke yesterday offered their ideas on the Cambodian conflict.

Vietnam's Deputy Foreign Minister, Nguyen Dy Nien, said that "from this rostrum, I solemnly declare that from September 27 there does not remain a single Vietnamese volunteer soldier in

Cambodia, either army man, advisor or military employee."

Last Thursday, a Cambodian resistance leader said Vietnam's troop withdrawal is a sham.

Son Sann, the prime minister of the three-party resistance coalition recognised by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Cambodia, said Vietnam left behind at least 30,000 Vietnamese soldiers, 100,000

militiamen and a million settlers.

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Abdul Ghafar Baba, said yesterday that Vietnam's withdrawal "cannot be regarded as credible unless it has been verified and supervised by an effective international control mechanism," such as a UN peacekeeping force.

India's Rao also called on all countries to stop supplying weapons to the warring factions in Cambodia.

Chinese minister to visit India

NEW DELHI, Oct. 6, (UPI): India yesterday announced the first visit by a senior Chinese leader in almost three decades and then issued a carefully worded reaction to the selection of the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan god-king, for the 1989 Nobel peace prize.

New Delhi's statement on the awarding of the peace prize reflected the cautious line it trends between providing sanctuary to the Dalai Lama and some 100,000 rabidly anti-Chinese Tibetan refugees and attempting to improve its relations with Beijing, its rival giant to the north.

The statement read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth not once mentioned the peace prize, the word Tibet or the Dalai Lama's life-long mission of ending Beijing's military occupation of his homeland, an issue New Delhi maintains is an internal Chinese affair. It also referred to him solely as a Buddhist "spiritual leader" and not as the temporal leader of six million Tibetans.

"We have always held the Dalai Lama in the highest esteem as a spiritual leader, a steadfast proponent of peace and an apostle of non-violence. The Dalai Lama has been admired in this country and all over the world," the statement said.

"Our leaders have close empathy with the Dalai Lama," it continued, "he is looked upon as the spiritual leader of the Buddhists in India and in all other countries of the world."

Seth minutes earlier announced the weeklong visit beginning Oct. 11 of Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian, the highest ranking Chinese official to travel to India since then-Premier Chou En-Lai came in 1960.

Two years after Chou's trip, Asia's two largest nations fought a brief border war in which India was badly mauled. The neighbours remain locked in a dispute over their frontier that has helped keep a chill in their relations and their troops posted in fund-raising deployments in the Himalayas.

Their ties were also kept frosty by India's close links to Beijing's communist rival, the Soviet Union, which New Delhi viewed as a strategic counter-balance to China. Beijing, meanwhile, has maintained a close friendship with Pakistan, India's foe in three wars since 1948.

Angry debate on Pak flag abuse

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 6, (Kuna): The National Assembly held another stormy debate on the incident of desecration of Pakistan's national flag by Sindh separatist elements in Sukkur on Oct. 1.

Workers of Jaiy Sindh Movement, an organisation seeking independent state of Sindh Dashed out of the present Sindh province, pulled down the white and green Pakistani national flag from the Sukkur airport terminal building on Sunday on the occasion of the arrival of movement chief G.M. Syed, burnt it and hoisted a "Sindh Desh flag."

Jury debates Desai case

One cent for every Indian demanded

CHICAGO, Oct. 6, (UPI): A US district court jury began deliberations yesterday in the \$100 million libel suit filed by former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai against Pulitzer prize-winning author Seymour Hersh.

The jury deliberated for two hours before recessing for the night.

Desai contends his reputation was damaged by Hersh's 1983 book, "The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House."

During closing arguments on Wednesday, Desai's attorney charged Hersh with using his pen as a sword to assassinate the reputation of the 95-year-old Indian leader.

In the book, Hersh said Desai received \$20,000 a year from the CIA as an informant beginning in the administration of President Lyndon Johnson and continuing through 1971. Hersh testified that his sources were six highly placed US government officials.

Desai attorney Cyril Kappil asked the jury not

only to grant a \$100 million libel award, but to provide one cent for each of India's 700 million people or \$50,000 for each of Desai's 70 years in public service.

"With the stroke of a pen, Mr. Hersh assassinated his reputation, his honour, the only thing he wants to take him to the grave," Kappil said. "He used his pen as a sword."

"When you call somebody a traitor, you better have proof," Kappil said.

Hersh's lawyer, Bernard Nussbaum, told the jury that Desai's attorneys failed to prove libel. He said Desai failed to show Hersh either knew the information he was given was false, had good reason to doubt it or wrote the information out of malice.

Nussbaum reviewed Hersh's methods for gathering information.

"There is no evidence they were mistaken, and even if there were, would that prove Mr. Hersh knew he was printing false information? Of course not," Nussbaum argued.

51 more die as Eagles swoop

Lanka peace bid 'doomed'

COLOMBO, Oct. 6, (Agencies): An initiative to restore political stability to Sri Lanka appeared all but doomed today and authorities reported 51 new deaths related to the ongoing insurgency by Sinhalese leftists.

Police said 22 of the latest victims were killed in a fresh wave of attacks by a right-wing vigilante group, the Eagles of Central Hills, which operates around the verdant tea-growing town of Kandy, 70 miles (110 km) northeast of Colombo.

The dead, all males believed to have been between the ages of 24 and 36, were shot because the death squad believed they were either rebels, supporters or sympathizers of the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front, police said.

The victims, whose bodies were dumped in various areas around Kandy, were killed in pre-dawn raids,



Benazir wins award

Pakistani senior Minister Begum Nurat Bhutto (left) receives the 1989 W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award in favour of her daughter Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto from former US Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro. Benazir was presented the award for her vital role in restoration of democracy in Pakistan. (Reuters wirephoto)

61 Dhaka students held Raid on dorms

DHAKA, Oct. 6, (AP): Police raided dormitories at Dhaka University before dawn today and arrested 61 students for possessing arms illegally, authorities said.

University vice chancellor Abdul Mannan said the raid on two of the university's 12 dormitories was to flush out "armed gangs" from the college, the country's largest.

A senior police official who requested anonymity said officers seized a machine gun, a revolver, one pistol, one rifle, a bayonet and an undetermined amount of ammunition.

Today's raid was the second on the university campus in three weeks. At least one student has died and several have been injured in gunfights on the campus since July.

Police last month arrested 34 students, most from Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal. It is the student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, a major opposition group led by Khaleda Zia.

The political identity of students detained today was not immediately known, but university sources said they belong to Khaleda Zia's party and the Awami League of another prominent opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina.

In separate statements today, Khaleda Zia and Hasina accused President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's government of conspiring to ban student politics.

Almost all major political parties of Bangladesh have student wings except Ershad's Jatiya Party.

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police said. The raids came only a day after the death squad massacred 18 workers of a local university because it believed they helped engineer the murder by the JVP on Wednesday of an assistant registrar who also served as an army reserve officer.

The Eagles of the Central Hills has been responsible for scores of slayings since last month and is among a number of anti-JVP death squads that reportedly operate with tacit government approval and consist of off-duty police and army officers and supporters of the United National Party (UNP) of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Hundreds of deaths in Sinhalese areas have been attributed to the squads. Human rights activists — themselves targets of the vigilantes — contend many innocent people have been among the victims.

The JVP, composed mainly of students and unemployed youths of the ethnic Sinhalese majority, has been waging a more than two-year campaign of murder, sabotage and strikes to destabilise the government and install a Marxist-style authoritarian regime. More than 4,000 lives have been lost this year.

A Tamil-dominated province in Sri Lanka's northeast is training an army of 30,000 Tamils to replace Indian peacekeeping troops scheduled to withdraw by Dec. 31, a top leader of the province said yesterday.

Vardharajah Perumal, the pro-Indian chief minister of the northeastern province council, said the army is being set up to "protect the Tamil people and the democratic system now existing in the northeast." The council is a form of local government.

"We are not increasing the militarisation of the north and the east. We are creating a legitimate armed force," he told reporters.

Perumal's Eelam People's Liberation Front Party, a former rebel group, fears its members will face armed attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

End of the road for 50 Lankans

(Continued from Page 1)

Affairs and Labour to get back pay and an iqama (residence permit). Their employer promised the officials to do the needful to obtain visas. It was a promise that was never honoured.

In March, when the cleaners insisted on getting visas and their pay cheques, their employer, angered by the cleaners' action, threatened 22 cleaners with deportation. The cleaners agreed and then did not sign the pledge because they felt it would be used against them. Five workers were deported at that time.

After the matter was taken up by the ministry, the workers went back to work. A month later, the workers, assigned to a remote tourist spot, insisted on getting ID cards and visas before going there. The employer stopped giving assignments.

The cleaners also considered legal action but were told by a lawyer they could not file a court case because they are not "legal residents."

Their embassy tried unsuccessfully to intervene on their behalf with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The cleaners, who approached the Farwaniya Immigration Department through Sri Lankan diplomats, said the officials showed a great deal of sympathy with them. "We were told our deportation would be arranged," said one cleaner.

A diplomat said they felt "nothing concrete" would emerge from their efforts and believe that returning to Colombo was the best thing for these workers.



Tibetans in a Delhi refugee camp including young Buddhist monks rejoice carrying a picture of the Dalai Lama. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tibetans' Nobel dance

Hundreds pray for Dalai Lama

NEW DELHI, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Tibetans in the Indian capital sang and danced today, emptying bottles of their native rice beer to celebrate the award of the Nobel peace prize to their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Posters congratulating the Dalai Lama were plastered on homes in a Tibetan settlement on the outskirts of New Delhi as exiles, young and old

together, danced and sang patriotic songs before a portrait of their "god-king."

The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India with thousands of his followers since 1959, was awarded the peace prize yesterday for his non-violent struggle to liberate his homeland from China.

He is currently visiting the United States.

Escape from Chinese jail

Tibetan tricked his way out

DHARMSALA, India, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Lobsang Nyima tricked his way out of a Chinese jail and headed for the hills soon after the last pre-independence riots convulsed the Tibetan capital Lhasa.

Nyima, his nine-year-old son and 15 others trekked through some of the toughest Himalayan terrain in search of freedom.

Two months later, after a circuitous route to fool Chinese patrols and the disappearance of five people along the way, 12 hungry refugees slipped across the Nepalese border.

It was the end of a 30-year ordeal for Nyima, 21 years of it behind bars, but his joy was tempered by the knowledge that he had left his wife and seven-year-old daughter in Lhasa.

"I have not heard anything but I am pretty sure my wife must be suffering," 56-year-old Nyima said, his tears running freely.

"We decided that she should stay behind," he said. "Because of the hard journey I could not take them all but I told her how to react when the Chinese came."

Nyima is one of 200 Tibetans who have escaped Tibet since at least 16 people were killed in pre-independence riots in March. In the previous 15 months, 900 people had been legally but most clandestinely.

Tibetan leaders in exile say many more than 16 people died in the three days of rioting or were later executed after Chinese authorities imposed martial law in Tibet and expelled all foreigners.

Nyima angrily rejects Chinese charges that Tibetans shot at Chinese security forces during the Lhasa demonstrations although he acknowledges they threw stones.

"Three times the Tibetans were able to snatch rifles from the Chinese and instantly they were broken," he said. "Tibetans did not shoot back at the Chinese."

"With my own eyes I saw six people being shot dead. They were shouting slogans for Tibetan independence and raising their hands."

Nyima, now living in the north



Lobsang: nettle soup

Indian town of Dharamsala — where Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, also lives in exile — said he was picked up by the Chinese authorities 12 days after the riots.

A member of one of the numerous small cells organising protests in Lhasa, he said the Chinese suspected he was an active advocate of Tibetan independence.

"When I was arrested I thought I would be locked up forever. I knew I had to escape."

"I said I knew people who investigated the demonstrations and I would go and find them. I cooked up lots of names and details."

Released after two days, he led his Chinese shadows round in circles for two weeks before giving them the slip and escaping with his son.

His group pretended to be pilgrims and first trekked west to Mount Kailash, revered by Tibetan Buddhists as the centre of the universe, then doubled back towards the Nepalese border.

"Several times we encountered Chinese patrols but said we had been on a pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and were on our way back," he said. "It was a trick but they let us go."

Savimbi to resume negotiations with Angolan government

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6, (AP): President George Bush yesterday urged Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi to resume negotiations and work out a ceasefire agreement with Angola's Soviet-backed government. Savimbi promised to comply.

At a half-hour White House meeting, Bush pledged US support for Savimbi and his Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) but admonished the guerrilla chief to stop feuding with Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Bush has tried to restore peace between the two sides, whose dispute in recent weeks has threatened the truce agreement reached last June through

Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko's mediation. Bush met with Mobutu on Wednesday and delivered a similar admonition.

"The President urged Dr Savimbi to work with President Mobutu and others in the region to foster the peace process," said a White House statement.

"He noted our long-standing support for a ceasefire and face-to-face negotiations, and, ultimately, free and fair elections," it said.

The reference to face-to-face negotiations was directed at Savimbi, who rejected US urgings to attend a negotiations session between the sides in Kinshasa, Zaire, last month, one US official said.

Klerk to meet Tutu on crisis

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 6, (AP): President F.W. de Klerk agreed today to hold unprecedented talks about South Korea's racial conflict next week with three anti-apartheid church leaders, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

De Klerk's office said the president "immediately responded positively" to a request by the church leaders for urgent talks "about the crisis in our land."

The meeting, scheduled for Wednesday in Pretoria, would be De Klerk's first with top anti-apartheid leaders since he replaced FW Botha as president on Aug. 15.

Tutu, leader of the Anglican church in Southern Africa, said he and his colleagues wanted to "spell out to him (De Klerk) the steps he needs to take to create a climate conducive to genuine and productive negotiations" between the government and black leaders.

De Klerk's office said the clergymen who requested the meeting were Tutu; the Rev. Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches; and the Rev. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

The president's office said it received a telex Tuesday from the church leaders that said: "Taking advantage of your declared open-door policy and deeply concerned about the crisis in our land, and wanting anxiously to help find a solution for the good of all South Africans, we ask for a meeting with you urgently next week."

Tutu, who was in the United States today, released a statement through his office in Cape Town saying he and his colleagues believe De Klerk "does not appreciate the far-reaching nature of the steps he must take to get negotiations off the ground."

De Klerk has offered to negotiate a new constitution within five years that would extend political rights to the disenfranchised black majority, but he has ruled out participation by the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement unless it renounces violence.

Tutu, expected after travelling to Washington for the funeral of Episcopal Bishop John T. Walker, met four times with Botha during the former president's 11 years in power.

A South African policeman on trial for using excessive violence in quelling anti-apartheid protests said today his accuser, a fellow-officer, had incited the violence.

Major Charles Brazelle, told a court that police colleague Gregory Rockman, whose allegations of riot squad brutality has made him a hero of the anti-apartheid movement, had broken all the rules by mingling with anti-apartheid protesters.

Two blacks were shot dead by police during a series of clashes between officers and armed youths in a black township near Durban, police headquarters said today.

Police were summoned after the youths attacked two private security guards at a shop in the township of Kwamashu at midday yesterday, a police statement said.

Police said the youths were armed with various types of weapons including pistols, rifles, and machine guns.

The political identity of students detained today was not immediately known, but university sources said they belong to Khaleda Zia's party and the Awami League of another prominent opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina.

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Amir's interest in Bulgarian minority lauded

Gabid undertakes goodwill mission

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 6, (KUNA): The Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamed Al Gabid paid a respectful tribute to HH the Amir of Kuwait for his interest in problems of the Islamic Ummah, in particular in the problems of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

"I have the privilege to undertake a goodwill mission" to Ankara and Sofia on the instructions of the Amir Sheikh

Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, current Chairman of the Fifth Islamic Summit, Al Gabid told the extraordinary session of the OIC held Wednesday afternoon at the request of Turkey.

He told the foreign ministers attending the session that HH himself visited the two capitals early last month and the two parties accepted in principle to meet.

"The modalities for such a meeting seem, however, difficult to define due to

the adamant refusal of Bulgaria to include the question of minority in the agenda," he said.

He said the numerous mediation efforts which were undertaken by the various quarters remain in vain.

Gabid also paid a solemn tribute to the Republic of Turkey for demonstrating its high sense of responsibility and solidarity towards "our Muslim brothers" in Bulgaria.

"Today more than ever, we must demonstrate our effective solidarity with Turkey and our support to the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria... and assist Turkey to shoulder the heavy burden that it faces for the maintenance of refugees," he said.

He said by accepting to hold this extraordinary session, "We have just given to the world a proof of our real solidarity and we must therefore preserve

our credibility and endeavour so that the decisions and recommendations of our meeting be commensurate to the expectations of our Muslim brothers in Bulgaria."

He said the future of the negotiations between Turkey and Bulgaria, the solution to the problem of deportees and the remaining Muslims in Bulgaria "shall depend to a very large extent on the position that we will adopt."

Kuwait needs more dental centres: Eidan

Existing clinics overcrowded

THE Dentistry Centre opened in 1982 to receive difficult cases normally sent abroad for treatment is currently facing many problems due to extreme pressure caused by the high number of patients. Waiting lists for appointments are gradually getting to be longer than before.

Does Kuwait require a second dentistry centre to lighten pressure on the current centre and what are the specialties required for this purpose? A local daily interviewed a number of dentists and officials to highlight the situation.

Head of the centre, Dr Bader Eidan believes that specialty treatments and services should not be provided by one centre adding that Kuwait actually requires a number of comprehensive specialty centres at health areas. These centres should be distributed in accordance with geographic locations and population density. Eidan stressed that this was his only proposal towards resolving the problem.

Crowded

Eidan stated that dentistry centres and clinics are highly crowded in comparison with other medical and health centres due to the fact that programmes aimed at citizens and residents in oral health through information, medical conferences and others have increased the awareness of

citizens and residents causing a transfer from general treatment to specialty treatments.

In addition, Eidan indicated that the large increase is a factor directly related to the number of patients on the waiting list.

He said that due to the centre's limited capabilities and technical restrictions and also because of the limited number of buildings, the centre is incapable of facing up to the increase in the number of patients.

Specialised

Eidan indicated that dentistry in Kuwait started on a small scale in 1952 with two dentists and in 1987 the number of dentists increased to 352.

He indicated that specialty treatments began in 1956 at health complexes and school health programmes. In 1971 dentistry treatment changed from general dentistry to become highly specialised.

The official said that dentistry in particular requires considerable mental, physical, and extended time to be spent treating each patient. He stressed that protection and early dental care for children is very important to avoid future problems and in turn will ease the pressure on dental clinics.

Eidan said that appointments relatively change according to clinics adding that in the past it was relatively easier. He pointed

out that the centre made 807 dentures last October and repaired 232 during the same period. He indicated that the number of patients reached 126,721 during the same month at all Kuwait dental clinics.

New centres

Eidan said that Kuwait has 175 dental clinics which includes 35 Kuwaiti dentists. He pointed out that the Ministry of Public Health is currently conducting studies to establish new specialty centres. He proposed that special training courses should be organised in co-operation with world universities, to increase the number of specialised dentists.

Dr Yousif Al Dwairi, a specialist dentist at the centre stated that Kuwait requires other dentistry centres to lighten pressure on existing centres due to the increase in population. He indicated that dentistry services at the centre failed to fulfill requirements due to the fact that capabilities are not enough to cover the increasing demand.

On the other hand, Dr Masouma Al Gharoeb stated that the centre receives a large number of patients from Salamiya and Hawalli in addition to other areas. To address the pressure of patients and provide dental care to urgent cases, the official recommended appointing more specialised dentists.



Adult education centre

Over 213 women have so far registered for the new course at the Adult Education Centre in Qadsia. The centre provides opportunities for illiterate adults to educate themselves.

UMO plan to launch scholarships

THE United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) has announced its next project: scholarships for deserving students, at the opening of the Bharat Meela held at the Indian embassy which was opened yesterday by Charge d'Affaires R.S. Mukhija.

The Meela, organised by United Malayalee Organisation (UMO), to commemorate the Nehru Centenary Year, is a month-long affair during which the group will hold several socio-cultural events.

Guests were welcomed by Ahy Varadachari, UMO President R.V. Hyder Ali gave the presidential address, and spoke about the group's activities, including a new programme that is to be launched by them. A vote of thanks was proposed by Babu Vadakkaneethu.

The scholarship programme will enable deserving students in Kerala, India, to continue their higher studies in the fields of medicine, engineering, science, literature and the arts. Hyder Ali said UMO has so far received about 1,000 applications from students who wish to benefit from the scholarship.

"We want to introduce an adopt a student scheme under which an individual would undertake the cost of seeing a student through college," said Hyder Ali.

The UMO consists of 10 associations, brought under one umbrella in 1983; their aim is to encourage social and cultural activities among

Indians and to help uplift the standard of Malayalees in Kerala.

Yesterday afternoon, a seminar on the socio-cultural role of Indian women was held. A healthy debate on the role of women was held by the participants, who called for a balanced approach to the status of women. Some women also complained of the continued "suppression of women" by a male-dominated society and urged women to continue their fight for equality. They also expressed concern over the rising menace of drug abuse and other ills permeating society and urged women to strike a balanced, healthy way of bringing up children.

A paper on the "Role of Indian Women" in the Socio-Cultural Fields" was presented by Mrs Charlotte Pereira. After she read the paper, a discussion was opened by Mrs Gracy Mathews, headmistress, New Indian School. The moderators were Noorunnisa Hyder Ali and Annamma Simon. Eight speakers also spoke on the subject; they are: Annamma Kurian, Achchamma Abraham, Mariamma Issac, Sulekha Jamal, Dr Daisy Thomas, Urmilla Vijayakrishnan, Saibumissa Abdul, Laila Joseph.

The co-ordinators of the seminar was Yusuf Thakkum. Guests were welcomed by Ponnamm John.

Saudis research alternative energy

US, W. Germans help harness solar power

RIYADH, Oct 6, (AP): Saudi Arabia, already basking in oil wealth projected to last another 100 years, is developing an even greater energy source — the sun.

In Saudi Arabia, sunlight produces enough energy per square metre of ground to light 40 25-watt lamps, experts say. Only an occasional cloudy day interrupts the estimated 3,000 hours of sunshine the nation receives annually.

The Saudis, attempting to lessen their dependence on petroleum, have teamed during the decade with the United States and West Germany to harness the power.

A \$26 million solar village with 160 photovoltaic solar generators is a showpiece of technology built in the desert 30 kilometres northwest of Riyadh, the capital. Constructed in 1982 as part of a \$100 million Saudi-US co-operative agreement called Soleras, it is the largest facility of its kind and one of 10 in existence.

"We knew it would be expensive at first," said Fahad Huraib, solar research director at

the King Abdul Aziz Centre for Science and Technology, a quasi-government organisation. The project has plowed money into solar energy production, which is still prohibitively expensive and relatively inefficient.

"To develop an energy source takes from 50 to 100 years," he said.

Potential

While the sun has the potential to produce 1,000 watts of electricity per square metre every day, current technology can only convert about 12 per cent of that energy to electricity, researchers said.

Storage of the energy in solar batteries, which only last 5-7 years, adds about 30 per cent to production costs.

The solar village contains a sophisticated solar laboratory, where environmental effects on the efficiency of solar energy can be simulated and measured.

Its original purpose was to use a concentrated photovoltaic system to convert the sun's rays into 350 kilowatts of direct current electricity a day.

That power now benefits 4,000 residents of three nearby villages, supplying them with their first source of reliable electricity.

Besides the villages, the solar system is now hooked into Riyadh's main power grid, which also accepts solar-generated electricity.

Saudi authorities hope that solar energy can be harnessed to supply electricity to remote villages. If successful, Huraib said it might help stop migration to the cities.

Solar projects are also running in other parts of the country.

Applications

In the Red Sea industrial city of Yanbu, a water desalination plant produces 200 cubic metres of water daily. Huraib said.

Concentrated heat from the sun produces steam which powers refrigeration equipment. As the sea water is chilled, fresh water crystallizes and forms ice which is then washed and melted, he said.

In southern Saudi Arabia, where highways pass through mountains, tunnel lights are powered by on-site photovoltaic collectors.

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Action Line

THIS refers to a previous reply concerning applying for a passport that a deportee can re-enter Kuwait. My questions are:

1. What is the procedure to apply for a passport?
2. Who is the right person to contact at the Ministry of Interior?
3. Who can possibly work on the application for passport on behalf of the deportee?
4. If a passport is ever granted, after how long can a deportee re-enter Kuwait?

As you must be aware, we are victims of all sorts of ill-treatment which leads them to alcohol. I am one of them. Now, I want to start a new life all over again, especially as I have found a wonderful family, willing to sponsor me.

I would appreciate if you could clarify my problem. I once tried to make up with my former sponsor with the help of a couple who wanted to sponsor me. But I was told that my visa has already been cancelled, although the Kuwaiti family are willing to let me work for somebody else. I worked for several families to save money for my ticket. I have never misbehaved in your country.

AJM

1. The application must be submitted to the Ministry of Interior.
2. The ministry personnel will guide you on the matter; you must approach the staff of the special department known as "Qidmat al Muwataneneen."
3. A deportee can apply directly to the ministry or through a representative in Kuwait holding a power of attorney from him.
4. There is no charge for this service.
5. If a passport is granted, the time of re-entry will be determined by the authorities.

If a person, who has overstayed, is in Kuwait both the past and present employers can request the immigration department to seek permission to transfer the residence permit. (The Immigration Department reserves the right to accept or reject an application). The employers can also pay the fine, if there is any.

I AM a dressmaker and have been working here for almost nine months. I've been told by an angry customer that my employer is violating the immigration law since my visa No. is 20. I was also told that this shop is illegal because it does not have a business permit.

I discussed this matter with my boss but she only smiled. I want to know, in case, I'm caught and there is an investigation, will I get involved? I'm scared and can't concentrate on my work. I will be grateful if you tell me what to do. Can I look for another employer?

L. Fernandez

If you hold an article No. 20 visa, it means that you are not allowed to work in any kind of firm, licensed or unlicensed. You must work only as a maid, with a family. And if anyone finds you working in such an establishment — officials of the Social Affairs Ministry or Immigration Department, you will be considered as breaking the immigration rules. Mostly, such cases result in deportation.

If you want to continue working in the shop, you must leave the country and re-enter on a No. 18 visa.

I'VE been in Kuwait for the past ten years (1979) under visa No. 20 for five years and visa No. 18 for five years. Am I entitled to the 10 year privilege and leave my job any time — that is for better prospects?

1. My present employer for five years has been the one who changed my residency from Article No. 20 to 18. When I came from maternity leave I was told by his partner that I can find and work for another company because they cannot afford to pay my present salary. I found a good company and have been working here for two months. But my sponsor always threatens me, saying he'll create problems for me if I don't go back to the previous company. Does he have the right to do that? He said he will never give me a release letter.

3. If I take the case to the Ministry of Labour, can I work with the new company while the case is being heard? I am told this is not allowed.

4. What other benefits am I entitled to from my previous employer for five years besides the 15 days leave (which has been paid)? I took maternity leave last year but I did not get anything. What benefits will I receive?

Joy G.

1. THE duration of stay on article 20 visa is not taken into account for the 10 years privilege; only the duration on article 18 visa will be taken into account.

2. As you have worked with the previous employer for five years, you can file a case to get a release from the present employer so as to work for the new company. According to article 16 of the new labour rules, you can get a release from them.

3. If you take the case to the Ministry of Social Affairs, you cannot work for the new company as you will be violating both immigration and social affairs rules.

4. You have the right to ask for full benefits. If you can prove that the company asked you to work somewhere else, it means that you were terminated by them. In this situation, you have the right to claim full benefits. And if you resigned, you'll get half the benefits, provided you have completed five years. You also have the right to get all the leave benefits you did not get including payment for the 70 days maternity leave you took last year.

...

MY wife and I are working in the private sector. Recently, I got a visa for my two-year-old daughter. I would like to know whether I can bring her directly from India to Kuwait without going to the Kuwait consulate in Bombay and produce her original visa at Kuwait airport upon her arrival here?

She has a separate passport. I would like to know what formalities have to be completed to obtain a residence permit after her arrival in Kuwait.

G. K. Nair

AN immigration official said that it is not necessary to go to the Kuwait embassy if you have obtained an NOC for your daughter. The NOC can be produced upon her arrival at the airport. After her entry, it is essential to obtain a dependent visa for the child. For this, you have to approach the immigration department with an application form, father's passport and give in the application, which will be processed according to normal procedure. This has to be done within two weeks of your daughter's arrival.

...

I WANT to apply for a better job in another company in Kuwait with the permission of my employer. I am holding visa No. 20. If I take an exit, what documents will I take with me to come back with a new visa No. 18? My employer said he will provide a release paper. Please tell me what to do?

Grace

VISA No. 20 cannot be transferred to visa No. 18, even with the consent of the employer. In case you want to get a work permit (Visa No. 18), you'll have to cancel the present visa, leave the country and re-enter Kuwait.

If you get a job in a company, its owner/sponsor will have to apply for a work permit for you. If he gets the visa No. 18 issued, you will have to take it to your country of origin and get it attested by the Embassy of Kuwait there. After that, you can return to Kuwait.

Even if your employer gives a release letter, you cannot transfer your residence from No. 20 to No. 18 as this is no longer permitted by the laws of this country.

...

THIS is in reference to an advertisement of Al Moji Pharmacy in your newspaper. I would like to have the address of the above pharmacy so that I can write to them. I want the details about the hair oil and the price. I also wanted to enquire if they have a branch in Riyadh.

Shabbir Chinkunwala,

THE 101 Hairgrowth Liniment costs KD 19.500; Hair Regain Oil is also available at a similar price. Al Moji Drugs Company is the sole distributor for the product in Kuwait. Hussam Nimer of Al Moji Drug Company said that the company has no branches in Saudi Arabia. He, however, said an order can be placed with them. The company's address: Al Moji Pharmacy, P.O. Box 2428754, Safat, 13028, Kuwait; Fax: 2425946; Tel: Pharmacy — 2428754.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or Fax your questions to us on No. 4847495.

Unidentified ship dumps waste in Gulf: report

Suspicious material in 40 litre barrels

NICOSIA, Oct. 6, (Ap): An unidentified vessel dumped 40 barrels of waste off Iran's Sirri Island in the Southern Gulf and sailed out of the waterway, Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the ship dropped the waste Wednesday night, and Iranian authorities have begun an investigation into the incident. IRNA said each of the barrels contained

40 litres (10.5 gallons) of "suspicious material."

The terse report gave no other details on the cargo on the ship, but said another vessel tried a few days earlier to dispose of a cargo of Zinc Oxide in the Gulf.

Transfer

IRNA did not name the ship, but said it had come from the Netherlands. It added that the cargo was transferred onto a Brit-

ish ship after the captain failed to find a spot to dump it.

The Iranian report followed reports in neighbouring Gulf Arab states last week that the 15,245-ton Cypriot-flagged freighter Pro Americana was roaming the Gulf, looking for a place to dump its toxic cargo of 2,000 tons of Zinc Oxide.

The ship's West German managers, the Hamburg-based Peter Cremer Befrachtungskontor, denied the allegation.

They said the Pro Americana was renamed White Stork two months ago after a change of ownership, and was in South American waters at the time the Kuwait-based Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment sounded the alarm against it.

The organisation claimed that the ship's cargo originated in Denmark and Italy. The conflicting reports on the ship's whereabouts have not been reconciled.

Iraq water tender to be offered next year

By Hussain Salameh

MINISTER OF Electricity and Water, Dr Humoud Al Rqobah announced yesterday that the ministry has taken a number of measures that would help minimise the possibility of any power failure in the future. But the minister did not completely rule out the possibility of such cuts, stressing that as long as it's an issue between human and machines, mistakes are not ruled out. He emphasised that what we can do is ensure ultra caution to prevent such failures. He also announced that the ministry has stipulated some penalties against those who were proved responsible for the summer blackout.

Rqobah expressed his determination to forge ahead with the administrative development programmes in his ministry, adding that he expects these steps to be "a model" in administrative development. He said that there are some plans to improve the present system of payment of water and electricity bills. Kuwait will shortly require over 210 Imperial Gallons of water for irrigation purposes and these are provided from brackish water, sewage water after treatment and other sources.

Most of these sources are not permanent and the official appealed to the public to rationalise the use of irrigation water. But he said that this problem will end when Iraqi water arrives though he said that it is difficult to exactly say when the waters will arrive in Kuwait until the completion of the meeting that would be held in Kuwait later this month between two delegations from both countries.

He said that the tender for the Iraq water project will be offered next year.

Rqobah expressed his determination to fulfill the promise to solve the problem of red colour in drinking water. He announced that two tenders will be signed in the next few days for the treatment of over 130 million Imperial gallons of drinking water from Doha West and South Al Zour water desalination stations.

Concerning the power failures, the minister said that the ministry has implemented part of the recommendations of the committees formed to investigate into the blackout, particularly the foreign experts committee. This committee has made a number of important recommendations aimed at upgrading the performance of the power stations and networks. The minister stressed that the main guarantee for totally solving the problem of blackouts is the electric interlinking of the power stations and networks with the neighbouring countries.

Rqobah said that the ministry has put into operation a unit for treatment of the drinking water at the Shuwaikh water desalination station that provides drinking water for areas between 1st and 3rd ring roads in addition to Kuwait city.

The ministry will sign two more contracts in the next few days for installing two more water treatment units at Doha West and South Al Zour stations and these units will be in operation by 1992. With the operation of those two projects, the problem of red colour in drinking water will be completely solved, Rqobah said.

UN meetings

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 6, (Kuna): Gulf Co-operation Council Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara met yesterday with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss Arab and regional issues and the impact of peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

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Social affairs meeting

Ministry of Social Affairs Assistant Undersecretary for Social Welfare, Dr. Latifa Al Rujaib chaired a meeting held for parents and guardians of inmates of the disabled welfare house. The meeting was held to ask for the co-operation of parents to help the disabled. Dr. Latifa said during the meeting that enlightened families can render great help to the children at the home for the disabled. The meeting agreed to hold an open day every week where mothers of disabled children participate with house supervisors in training disabled children.

Activities resumed in 1988

Kuwait's PIC treads into the black again

THE Chairman of Kuwait's Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) Abdul Baqi Al Nouri was quoted as saying that the company made a reasonable profit during the last year compared to the previous years.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the company had resumed its activities during the year 1988/1989 particularly in the wake of the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

He clarified that the company had incurred considerable losses in the past years in view of the unstable circumstances prevailing in the area which had hampered the storing of ammonia in the company's depots at Shuaiba Area in addition to the drastic drop in prices in world markets.

However, post-war detente in the Gulf region had enabled the company to increase its storage capacity for export.

Speaking of the drop in prices, the official said that this factor was not the sole one that produced a drop in ammonia prices. General economic sluggishness, particularly in the Less Developed Countries (LDC) which comprise the majority of importers for this material had significantly affected the marketing process.

Apart from the above, some importing countries had realised self-sufficiency in petrochemical output.

Volume

Speaking of the company's ammonia product volume, the chairman said that ammonia was a basic material in the petrochemicals industry and his company was producing about two million tons per annum. This quantity was in compliance with the plants' designed capacity. He added that about 60 per cent of the produced ammonia was used for producing urea amounting to about 750,000 to 800,000 tons annually.

The company also has another unit for producing salt and chlorine used for water desalination. The Ministry of Electricity and Water is the main consumer of these materials. The plant produces about 75,000 tons daily.

Replying to a question, the official said that the Melamine industry which mainly is based on the urea industry had been established in Kuwait. Unfortunately, the industry had not been successful due to commercial problems. He clarified that the provision of the raw materials doesn't guarantee the success of the relevant industry as this requires other factors as well. He added that the company was using the surplus of its output of urea for manufacturing chemical fertilisers.

Speaking of the Arab Gulf Petrochemicals Industries, Nouri said that these industries depend completely on export operations for marketing of its output. Some other countries producing the same materials mainly depend on the local markets to market their output such as the European countries.

He added, unfortunately there are no Arab markets to accommodate the Arab Gulf output. Most Arab countries were importing their needs from foreign countries.

Meanwhile, the official described the Chemical fertilisers material as a sensitive one which might be affected by climatic and political factors. The official disclosed that the price of each ton of urea had dropped this year from USD160 to about USD65 Only.

He added, accordingly, the company was planning to import some basic materials from abroad to be used in the different fertiliser industries. Replying to a question on the marketing process, Nouri said that his company depended mainly on its efforts in this respect, clarifying that his company enjoys long experience in this field which had been realised through its efficient staff. During the past years the company had maintained several markets and had established other new markets, the official said. He added that the marketing means followed by the company simultaneous with government support in addition to the effective contribution of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation had assisted the company to prove its existence in foreign markets and eventually to dispose of its output.

Markets

Consequently the company has no marketing problem, but the problem relates to realising reasonable prices, the official said. He added that when prices dropped drastically, company had exerted significant efforts to minimise output costs, rationalising expenditure and reducing manpower.

He disclosed that China constituted the main foreign market for Kuwait's urea output, while India was a main market for ammonia.

Additionally the company has its own markets in Syria, Sudan, Jordan, North Africa, Europe and recently USA.

The official disclosed that his company has established about ten companies in co-operation with Arab and Foreign countries. The joint projects are aimed at realising of industrial integration between Kuwait and the relevant countries in the petrochemical field and in the field of exchange of technical expertise. He clarified that the company had participated in establishing of petrochemicals projects in China, Tunisia, Turkey and Bahrain. Some of these projects had failed due to political and economic factors. However, joint projects in Bahrain and Turkey and China were successful, the official said. He added that some projects in Tunisia had been suspended.

Speaking of the European Economic Community (EEC) decision to impose higher custom fees on the petrochemical exports to EEC member states, the official said that the EEC pertinent laws will be applied on our products and that of others. But, currently the GCC is striving to solve this problem through available channels, but no prompt outcome is expected.

Speaking of the Kuwaitisation process at his company, the official said, it is a patriotic task which we are striving to achieve. But unfortunately the percentage of the national work force in the oil sector is relatively small compared to our ambitions and objectives in this connection, the official said.

"I would like to point out that we were appointing foreign workforce, not because it was cheap, but in order to benefit from their experience that had been acquired in their home countries in the field of petrochemicals," the official said. He added that the company was always keen to appoint national cadres to fill the available vacancies. In this context the official said that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation was keen to appoint Kuwaiti cadres in its projects abroad. But, this policy had not received the necessary approval by Kuwaiti families who prefer to see their sons working locally.

Diamonizide banned in Kuwait for 10 years

WHO, FAO to re-evaluate chemical

THE Director of botanic wealth department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish resources Jassem Al Bader had stressed that Kuwait has prohibited the import of diamonizide which is commercially known as R-material for the last ten years.

He added that the manufacturing company that produces this material (Uni-Royal) tried to export it to Kuwait but failed as the company is blacklisted by the Arab Office of Israel Boycott. He denied that this material was discovered in UAE.

The dangers of this material began in early 1980s in USA

when a report was submitted to the American Environment Protection Agency confirming that diamonizide causes cancer especially among children. The agency however refused the report claiming that scientific evidence mentioned in the report were false. But last year, Uniroyal announced that it withdrew all quantities of this material from American markets.

But this was not sufficient because the material is used by many other countries of the world in many agricultural products like grapes, pears, peaches, tomatoes, apples and peanuts. The material is used to enhance colour and to prevent early ripening and also as a form of preservative.

Meeting

The WHO and FAO will hold a meeting this month to re-evaluate diamonizide, and Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture will take a decision after completion of these studies.

He added that the authority pays special attention to all insecticides used in the agricultural field and has laid down stringent rules related to all aspects pertaining to annual imports of

insecticides from well-known international companies and also undertakes tests on these imports to ensure that the required specifications are met.

The materials are not distributed to farms but these are sprayed under supervision of the authority's technical teams. He added that the authority periodically issues many regulations governing the usage and regulation of these insecticides in co-operation with the Health Ministry. There is a draft law on dealing with dangerous chemicals being studied and reviewed by relevant authorities, Bader said.

Afro-Arab meeting

Sabah calls for greater support to Arab causes

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 6, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah called today for greater African support to Arab causes, in particular the Palestinian people's struggle against the Israeli occupier and wider recognition of the Palestinian state.

As current co-chairman of the Standing Committee on Afro-Arab Co-operation, Sheikh Sabah pledged increased support for Arab-African Co-operation in all areas "taking it to new horizons for the interest of our Arab and African peoples."

In an address before the committee, Sheikh Sabah expressed the Arabs' appreciation to those African countries that promptly recognised the Palestinian state. "I wish to express our great appreciation to all countries that promptly recognised the Palestinian state, while hoping the friendly nations that haven't done so yet will join their sisterly African and Arab ones in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and recognising their state," Sheikh Sabah said.

Israel and South Africa, he told the meeting, now stand alone and isolated within the world community which he said explains who those two regimes have been collaborating in all fields, "especially in the area of nuclear arms and exchange of expertise in acts of repression, murder and terrorism."

Sheikh Sabah also appealed to the African countries to support the United Nations secretary-general's efforts in pursuing the implementation of resolution 598, calling for a comprehensive settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

From the Arabs' point of view, he said, this is the only way to ensure the establishment of durable peace and security in the region.

Proposals

He deplored the lack of progress on the humanitarian side, namely the exchange of prisoners of war between the two countries.

Demanding that this "urgent humane issue" not be pending on political matters or "impertinent negotiation purposes," Sheikh Sabah called for African support of this issue which he said would be "A prop and an incentive to achieve the progress required."

Regarding Lebanon, Sheikh Sabah called upon the international community to exercise all pressures to ensure Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon in compliance with Security Council Resolution 435.

On Arab-African co-operation, Sheikh Sabah recalled Kuwait's proposal to the standing committee at the last meeting in Kuwait last June for the creation of a Joint Afro-Arab Investment Establishment.

The committee, in turn, recommended that the proposal be taken up by a special joint meeting that recently had been convened in Washington by the finance ministers of the committee's member states.

"This trend represents a triumph for co-operation endeavours, and we should express our satisfaction with the attention given to this project by the finance ministers during their meeting in Washington," he said.

Amir's tour an accomplishment

Developing nations could be third power

By Barges Hmoud Al Barges

KUWAIT, Oct. 6, (Kuna): The recently concluded tour of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah was a splendid accomplishment by all means that extended over a vast political Arab and international arena.

The Amir tour was a remarkable addition to the previous one which took last August to Egypt, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Though both tours have achieved considerable success of its short-term objectives, we have to wait to see their positive impact in the long run.

The Amir of Kuwait is known for his wisdom and patience in tackling emergency issues away from momentary reactions which would lead to adverse results.

The Amir who spoke in the name of Arab and Islamic nations on several international occasions, taking their voice to the world and defending their rights, did not forget his humanitarian obligation towards the Third World countries which are still suffering poverty, negligence, disease and debt.

Courage

The visit of HH to Iraq September 23-25 was a genuine expression of fraternal and national sentiments felt by Kuwait towards that Arab country with which it shares the same destiny and aspirations.

When Kuwait stood beside Iraq and bore the consequences it was just performing its national role with self denial and did not relent despite pressure, threats and subversion attempts which extended to endanger its own safety. That was a courageous and fraternal stand highly appreciated by the Iraqi people and their leader President Saddam Hussein.

Kuwait's support to Iraq was not in position of bargaining. It did not hesitate in contributing to Arab war efforts against the Zionist entity in June 1967 and

October 1973 wars despite its distance from the frontline. Kuwait which had sided with Egypt, Syria and Jordan would definitely stand beside any Arab country had its security and territorial integrity came under any threat.

Regarding its siding with Iraq during the eight-year war, Kuwait had refrained from fishing in dirty waters thanks to the awareness of its political leadership who know that protecting the brother's back was a priority and that time would settle minor differences without rows or rhetoric.

Peace

Taking into consideration the international and European weight of France and its relative proximity from our Arab region and its influence on developments therein, the Amir visited that country Sept 25-27.

The Amir trip to Paris was a peace message signalling possibility of existence between big states and small ones away from the obsession of fear and hegemony. Bringing a lasting peace to the Gulf region was the predominant issue in the Amir Mitterrand talks. HH was fully aware that in spite of silent guns in the Gulf war battle fields, defusing of tension is needed to prevent renewal of that tragic war in order to enable the region's peoples to dedicate their efforts to construction and development.

In remarks to his French hosts, HH expressed hope that "war weapons would be converted to factories, its fields to farms and gardens, its trenches to streams and the minds and hearts would be devoted to make life more safe and happier."

The French president stressed that peace in the Arabian Gulf could only be guaranteed through a peaceful settlement to the conflict, a matter which Kuwait is seeking in the framework of efforts being exerted by the Gulf Co-operation Council and the United Nations.

The Palestinian question and

the national rights of the Palestinian people to establish their own state on their usurped land were among the issues brought forward by the Amir in his talks with President Mitterrand, citing his history as a free-conscience struggler and his brave stand towards the Palestinian issue.

HH also stressed the importance of bringing an end to the suffering of the Lebanese people, indicating that Kuwait was among the first countries to offer its capabilities for achieving the goal. He underscored that Kuwait had exerted painstaking efforts in this regard spearheaded by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad who handed over the responsibility to the Arab Tripartite Committee.

The humanitarian gestures in HH's reciprocations to President Mitterrand's speech drew the attention of political observers particularly his call to re-establish relations between the European and Arab and Islamic civilisation on one hand and between the North and the South on the other, stressing that it is inhuman that nations attain political freedom only to fall captive to debt.

Support

From France HH embarked on a week-long tour of three African countries which took him during Sept 27-Oct 3 to Guinea, Mali and Niger to assure Africa's poor nations of Kuwait's support to them at a time they were let down by countries who caused their sufferings.

Kuwait could have employed its financial and economic capabilities to further enhance the welfare of its own people but its political leadership opted to get rid of this selfish stand maintained by many states, richer and stronger than Kuwait.

HH the Amir believes that the developing countries together with the Non-Aligned countries could be a third international power if good and sincere intentions were provided.



Dangerous U turn

This is not the first accident, and perhaps won't be the last to take place at the U-turn on the Airport Road, opposite the newspaper area. Many accidents take place at this particular U-turn simply because of the huge traffic flow on the Airport Road. Luckily no one was injured in this accident.

From the courts

7 years for raping minor

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to seven years of penal servitude and deportation for raping a seven-year-old girl. The court heard that the defendant had lured his victim with a bar of chocolate and led her to the roof of the building and committed his crime.

The victim attracted the attention of her parents when she complained of pains in the lower part of her body, and when asked, she related what had happened.

The suspect confessed to the evil act and was taken to the local police station.

2 sentenced for smuggling

KUWAIT Assize Court sentenced two men to different sentences for smuggling and dealing with narcotics.

The first convict who is accused of smuggling hashish in his suitcase while arriving to Kuwait through the airport from Damascus confessed that he was bringing the narcotics to an agent living in Kuwait. Security force then arrested the second convict and recovered a quantity of heroin from his house.

The first convict was sentenced by the Assize Court to fifteen years imprisonment with labour, KD12,000 fine and deportation. The second convict was sentenced to three years imprisonment with hard labour, and KD12,000 fine.

7 years RI for attempted rape

THE court has ordered two Asian nationals jailed for seven years with hard labour and to be deported after serving their term, for breaking into the house close to their employer's and attempting to rape the maid.

The court heard that the defendants managed to climb over the fence of the house and get into the maid's room, while one tried to press his hand against her mouth to prevent her from calling for help, and the other tried to strip her clothes off.

However, the maid managed to wriggle free, and the noise woke up her employer's son. In the meantime one of the defendants managed to slip out of the room and escape, while the other was caught by the maid's employer while waiting and beating himself in a bid to get the maid to refrain from incriminating him.

2 years RI for adultery

THE criminal court has sentenced a couple to two years in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation on the charge of adultery.

The court learnt that the woman was rushed to hospital for an emergency abortion, and that she gave birth to a still born male baby. She confessed to her interrogators that she had shacked up with her accomplice for nine months during which they lived as man and wife.

AL MANSOUR VIDEO
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New Kuwait
Tel: 4734978

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

There is many a mistake made on purpose — Thomas Halliburton, Canadian journalist-humourist (1798-1865).

Sudan's war ravages life

Malaria runs rampant

NAKED children, bellies swollen by malnutrition, stand chewing dried, impaled fish beneath a harsh sun. Withered elders sit staring blankly at the horizon.

Half the 30,000 residents of Malakal, Sudan have become refugees to their own land, seeking relief in this remote port on the Nile from the horrors of a seemingly interminable civil war.

With sanitation non-existent, malaria and typhoid have run rampant. The sick may visit only one dilapidated hospital staffed by a handful of doctors and lacking almost all medical supplies.

Malakal, capital of the southern upper Nile region, is a microcosm of Sudan's south, an area the size of France that has been laid waste by 61-2 years of warfare and famine.

This year, a colossal international relief operation staved off recurrence of the mass starvation experienced during the summer of 1988. But the rebellion's cumulative effects continue to wreak havoc on the region's desperate civilians.

Government soldiers control Malakal, 425 miles (680 kms) south of the capital of Khartoum, as they do most southern population centres. Nevertheless, rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army stake out areas on its perimeter, as freely as they circulate in more than 90 per cent of the southern countryside.

Militarily, the war has been a stalemate for months. Both sides agreed in April to still their guns and allow passage of relief goods. On June 30, a military junta took power in Khartoum, vowing to end the war and has extended the truce month-to-month. The rebels have co-operated.

However, political manoeuvring over how and when to talk peace continues, leaving the people of Malakal and the rest of the south struggling to survive.

"People may think we're all dead, but we're still living, despite the war," said Joseph Makar, a government employee. "Life is going on here. We are life. We are giving birth, and we are eating, although very little."

The United Nations says 250,000 southerners died a year ago of starvation or disease in a war-induced famine. Other Western relief workers estimate a death toll twice as high.

To prevent recurrence, UN agencies organized Operation Lifeline Sudan, positioning 105,000 tons of relief goods in key transit points for distribution to displaced people isolated by monsoon-like summer rains. Organisers say 80 per cent of the material arrived on time.

James O'Neill, regional monitor of the UN World Food Programme, said government and rebels are negotiating the dispatch of a third convoy of Nile river barges carrying more relief for upper Nile.

The programme has had to overcome both logistical and political problems, he said, including inadequate storage facilities and a dearth of workers to unload, transport and distribute. Local officials complained about unfair distribution. As displaced people flooded the towns, they numbers of people to be cared for kept fluctuating.

Still, O'Neill said, disaster was averted, although "some incidents of malnutrition remain" in the area. "I'm not a physician, but it can be seen among the children."

Despite a more sanguine nutritional outlook, Malakal still faces life-threatening problems, especially in health care. "Malaria and typhoid are everywhere, and we have no chloroquine (malaria medicine) or syringes," said Lt Col Galwak Deng, military governor for the Upper Nile, noting that the capital had not been sprayed for mosquitoes in four years.

"We have only one general practitioner, when we need at least 24. We have some 500 amputees of medication, which would be consumed in one day if we were to use them, but we have more than 600 patients coming in every day."

Doctors and nurses said the town's lone hospital has 14 badly equipped wards and about 500 beds. Hospital records show at least two deaths a day from malaria or typhoid.

Hospital staff are helped by three doctors with the French organization Médecins Sans Frontières and some military doctors.

"These deaths are only the ones in the hospital," said one French physician, who identified himself only as Dr. Pathot. "We have no car at all, nor an ambulance, so if somebody is going to die, he may do it before coming to us. We can't say how many die every day."

The largely deserted town's 10 schools, closed for almost three years.

Two primary schools have been reopened. A reporter touring them found the classes had access neither to blackboards nor stools, let alone desks.

Children sat on the ground, their teachers instructing them to read and write by using the earth as a blackboard and a stick as chalk. (Malakal, Sudan, AP).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1571 — Austria's Don John decisively defeats Turkish fleet off Lepanto.

1679 — Britain invades Afghanistan.

1935 — League of Nations declares Italy aggressor in Abyssinia (Ethiopia).

1949 — Democratic republic is established in East Germany.

1950 — UN General Assembly approves allied advance north of 38th parallel in Korean conflict.

1958 — President Iskander Mirza proclaims martial law in Pakistan.

1963 — US President John F. Kennedy signs nuclear test ban treaty between United States, Britain and Soviet Union.

1967 — Military government in Greece ends house arrest restrictions against former Premier George Papandreu and other ousted officials.

1969 — China says agreement has been reached with Soviet Union to open negotiations in their border dispute.

1970 — United Arab Republic Vice-President Anwar Sadat officially succeeds the late General Gamal Abdel Nasser as president.

1976 — Thailand's new junta begins task of consolidating its power, lifting curfew it imposed, but parliament and constitution remain suspended.

1981 — Egypt's Vice-President Hosni Mubarak is nominated as successor to slain President Anwar Sadat.

1985 — Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro is hijacked by Palestinians in Mediterranean.

1987 — Chinese police set up roadblocks and patrol Lhasa, capital of Tibet, to prevent pro-independence demonstrations.

1988 — Thousands of workers in Yugoslavia demand higher wages and ouster of incompetent communist leaders.

Dalai Lama awarded Nobel Peace Prize

Exiles get shot in the arm

AWARD of the Nobel Peace prize to the Dalai Lama on Thursday has given a shot in the arm to Tibetan exiles but could pose problems for India.

Jubilant Tibetans expect the award to push back into international prominence their struggle to free Tibet from Chinese rule.

But diplomats and political analysts said it could be an irritant in relations between India and China, especially as the announcement comes a few days before a visit to New Delhi by Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian.

"In the past the presence of the Dalai Lama in India and his activities and the kind of support extended to him have caused some resentment in Beijing," said analyst Pran Chopra.

"It is possible that as a result of this award there might be celebrations or demonstrations that could lead to some awkwardness."

Relations between India and China, who fought a border war in 1962, have warmed considerably in the last two years.

Indian praise for the Dalai Lama after the prize was announced in Oslo was carefully worded to avoid offending Beijing, diplomats said.

"We have always held the Dalai Lama in the highest esteem as a spiritual leader, a steadfast proponent of peace and an apostle of non-violence," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

But it also emphasised that his sanctuary in the Himalayan foothills was purely for spiritual purposes and not political campaigns. It made no mention at all of Tibet.

Although India has provided sanctuary for the Dalai Lama for 30 years, the government says its action is purely humanitarian and does not indicate political support.

Last December Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi went out of his way during a visit to Beijing to emphasise that India considered Tibet an autonomous part of China.

Technically the Dalai Lama is required to abstain from political activity while in India, but in practice he is free to do and say largely what he likes.

Tibetan exiles say the greatest affect of the award will be to push the Tibetan issue back onto the world stage.

Although pro-independence demonstrations in Lhasa have made headlines since 1987, Tibetans in the Dalai Lama's exile home in the north Indian town of Dharmasala in the Himalayan foothills complain that the world has forgotten them.

"This is recognition of our moral authority," said Thupten Samphel, a senior official in the Tibetan government-in-exile.

"What we have is the moral authority. We are fighting a just cause."

In recent years the Dalai Lama's refusal to contemplate anything but a non-violent campaign has come under pressure from young exiles who complain that only by waging war can they force Beijing to negotiate.

The Dalai Lama said in an interview last month he recognised the frustrations of the young but he managed to head off a call for guerrilla warfare at a meeting of the radical Tibetan Youth Congress.



Dalai Lama: proponent of peace

Pious monk with unbridled optimism

THE DALAI LAMA, winner of the 1989 Nobel peace prize for his non-violent quest to free Tibet from China's rule, combines the piety of a simple priest with political pragmatism.

Three decades ago he fled the Chinese Army guns trained on his palace in Lhasa, Tibet's capital. Now, the 54-year-old Buddhist monk lives in exile in India and travels the world to assert the cause of his people.

When news of the Nobel award was released Thursday in Oslo, the Dalai Lama was in California on one of the US visits he makes at least twice a year to minister to Buddhist faithful while trying to stoke international awareness of the Tibetan struggle.

Fearful that China's heavy-handed rule and the influx of Chinese settlers to his ancient Himalayan homeland could obliterate Tibet's language, culture and religion, he has offered a series of concessions to Beijing.

Fifteen months ago, he dropped his demands for full independence for Tibet, publicly proposing that China continue to wield responsibility for military and foreign policy in exchange for greater Tibetan autonomy.

So far, there has been no concession by China. The Beijing government said it was willing to discuss Tibet but would not give up its assertion that Tibet is an integral part of the Chinese nation.

Tibetans trace the history of their homeland to the founding of a Tibetan kingdom in 127 BC. More than 1,000 years later, a theocratic state emerged under a series of what Tibetans believe are reincarnated Dalai Lamas.

According to Tibetan beliefs, the first Dalai

Lama, a title meaning "Ocean of Mercy," was born in 1391. After the earthly death of each Dalai Lama, a new god-king is revealed through a series of dreams and symbols.

The current — and 14th — Dalai Lama was born June 7, 1935, one of seven children of a poor farmer and named Tenzin Gyatso. When Tenzin was 2-years-old, Buddhist holy men arrived in his village of Tagtser carrying beads that had belonged to the 13th Dalai Lama.

After the little boy discerned the beads under a monk's cloak and correctly answered a series of questions, he was declared the new Dalai Lama.

He was taken away to study and on Nov 17, 1950, assumed full temporal and spiritual powers. Less than 10 months later, Chinese troops marched into Lhasa.

On March 10, 1959, Tibetans attempted to revolt and were quashed. One week later, his palace surrounded by Chinese troops, the Dalai Lama slipped out of Lhasa disguised as a Chinese soldier with a rifle on his shoulder and fled through the snow-covered mountains to neighbouring India.

Some 100,000 Tibetans now live there in exile. Now, attired in the sleeveless maroon-and-saffron robes of an ordinary Buddhist monk, he exudes an aura of holiness and unflinching belief in the goodness of mankind.

He continues to profess patient optimism that China will negotiate on the fate of Tibet, even after the Beijing government responded with increasing harshness to Tibetan pro-independence demonstrations in Lhasa.

Even China's military assault on ethnic Chinese

pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing last June has failed to lower his optimism. The government said fewer than 300 people died, while diplomats and observers said as many as 3,000 may have perished.

He has called the military assault in Beijing "a temporary setback" to Tibet's efforts to cast off 38 years of Chinese occupation.

"Eventually things will improve," he said last July at a news conference in New York.

(New Delhi — AP).

Prize citation

HERE is the text of Thursday's 1989 Nobel Peace Prize citation:

"The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the 1989 Nobel peace prize to the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the religious and political leader of the Tibetan people."

"The committee wants to emphasize the fact that the Dalai Lama in his struggle for the liberation of Tibet consistently has opposed the use of violence. He has instead advocated peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people."

"The Dalai Lama has developed his philosophy of peace from a great reverence for all things living and upon the concept of universal responsibility embracing all mankind as well as nature. (Oslo, Norway — AP)

Pope seeks better relations with Islam

WITH his travels to Africa and Asia, his peace initiatives and calls to forget the painful past, Pope John Paul II has made unprecedented overtures to the Muslim world.

But the road to dialogue is strewn with obstacles, and the Vatican is keeping a wary eye on challenges to the church in Islamic countries.

During the past two decades, and especially during John Paul's 11-year pontificate, the Roman Catholic church has sought to erase memories of medieval crusades against Muslims, fought in the name of faith.

"Muslims and Christians have generally understood each other badly and sometimes, in the past have exhausted each other in polemics and wars," John Paul said in Morocco four years ago, as the first pontiff to set foot on Arab soil as an official state guest.

He said dialogue was essential between the Catholic church and Islam, the two largest religious groups in the world.

However, the spread of Muslim fundamentalism has raised alarm, especially for isolated minority communities of Christians. The danger of Muslim-Christian rivalries has been dramatised by the bloodshed in Lebanon.

The Pope's concern over the Lebanese fighting recently led him to make the first direct appeal by a pontiff to the Islamic world, saying there can be no winners in such a struggle.

He also repeated his desire to visit the country torn by 14 years of civil war, despite threats against him from Muslim extremists. No immediate visit is planned, presumably for security reasons.

Pope John Paul is setting out to visit Indonesia on Oct 9-14, the world's largest Muslim country, with an estimated 140 million Muslims and a Roman Catholic minority of 5 million.

The Pope previously has stopped in such

predominantly Islamic countries as Turkey and Bangladesh, as well as several African countries with large Muslim populations.

Although his visits are aimed at shoring up the Catholic communities, the pontiff has also sought to meet with Muslim leaders at each stop. In Morocco, he addressed 80,000 people at a sports stadium, the first time the Pope had spoken to a large group of Muslims.

"The Pope is a man of religion and peace, and there is no harm from the visits of men of religion," says Sheikh Mohammed Hossam El Din, a senior member of the office of the rector of Egypt's Al Azhar University, a centre of Islamic learning.

"We work for morals and peace and he works for morals and peace, each within his own religion," he told the Associated Press in Cairo.

The era of dialogue was spurred by the second Vatican council, which also opened the way to improved ties between Catholics and Jews.

"Upon the Muslims, too, the church looks with esteem," said the 1965 declaration Nostra Aetate (In Our Times). "They adore one God, living and enduring, merciful, and all powerful, maker of heaven and earth and speaker to men..."

Vatican officials are pleased that its efforts have led to more visits between church representatives and Muslim theologians.

The Vatican also maintains diplomatic relations with a number of predominantly Islamic countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Turkey and Indonesia.

But Muslims see room for the Pope to pay more attention to the Muslim view when Christian and Muslim interests clash.

"The Islamic religion is a religion of tolerance. So it welcomes the peace calls by the Catholic church, but it sees that (its) attitude should be more even-handed as to take into account the interests of both

Muslims and Christians on an equal footing," Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah, an Islamic clergyman and prominent prayer leader in Kuwait, said in an interview with the AP.

John Paul's calls for a homeland for the Palestinians have won him appreciation in the Muslim world, while his meetings with PLO leader Yasser Arafat have drawn protests from Israel, a country with which the Vatican has refused to establish diplomatic relations.

"The church generally has been cautious to avoid offending Muslim sensitivities. Officials note that on Islamic issues, it often has to deal with governments, not religious leaders."

"It's something like the church in Eastern Europe, where diplomacy is the best method. We like to do things quietly," said a Vatican official, speaking anonymously under standing rules.

In a rare departure from quiet diplomacy, however, the Vatican did comment on the fury surrounding Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses." The Vatican newspaper condemned "whatever is irreverent and blasphemous" in the book, but said the author should not be killed, as the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini demanded.

According to church surveys, the amount of religious pluralism and freedom for Catholics varies considerably in the Muslim world.

In some cases, the Catholic minorities "live in a state of tension and of concern at the possibility of new restrictions," said Fides, a press service of the Vatican's missionary office.

The Vatican is worried about the spread of Muslim fundamentalism in countries such as Sudan and in Nigeria, where rivalries between Christians and Muslims led to the burning of churches and mosques in the northern part of the country in 1987.

(Vatican City — AP)

US grapples with 'two-headed beast'

AS diplomatic activity gathers strength to get Israeli-Palestinian peace talks under way, there are signs the US administration is grappling itself to grapple with the "two-headed beast," Israeli's right-left coalition, analysts say.

With the divided Israeli cabinet discussing its response to a new peace formula from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the administration is sending clear signals to Jerusalem urging acceptance of the plan.

US Secretary of State James Baker said repeatedly last week that the Egyptian proposal, which envisages elections in the Israeli-occupied territories within two months, did nothing more than flesh out an election plan put forward last April by the Israeli government itself.

"We just hope that the Israeli government will be as firmly committed to that proposal as it has been in the past," he said.

"The administration sees the Mubarak plan as a way of putting pressure on Israel without actually appearing to do so," said Robert Neumann, head of Middle East studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Affairs, a private Washington policy research group.

"If that doesn't work, the administration will have to decide whether and how to express its policies more strongly," said Neumann, a former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

There is no shortage of suggestions about how that might be done.

Conservative political columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak this week revived the old suggestion of the United States using its \$3 billion of annual aid to Israel as a lever — an idea guaranteed to send shivers down Israeli spines.

"The Jewish state has just asked for \$400 million more in bank credits... Bush might be able to stop Congress from voting that credit when Israel decides the time has come to ask for it," they wrote.

One analyst, who asked not to be identified, doubted that the politically-sensitive Bush administration would risk confrontation with the powerful American-Jewish lobby by playing the aid card.

Shamir objects to one clause in the Mubarak plan in which Israel would commit itself to giving up land for peace and opposes the idea of negotiating with Palestinians from east Jerusalem, which almost all Israelis want to keep, and with Palestinians deported from the territories.

Despite the problems, State Department officials believe the next few months could provide a rare window of opportunity to get the Middle East peace process rolling again. (Washington — Reuters)

Illegal practice

SIR: I strongly agree with Sree Hari Choudhary (AT, Sept 28-29) about stopping hundi business. This business is widely practised in Kuwait. Everyone concerned should step in to stop this. Everywhere agents and representatives of the hundi lords are found. Employees of exchange companies direct the customers who come in to make a legal and safe draft to the hundi dealers and so make a commission on each deal. By this the banks and exchange companies lose valuable business. The Indian embassy and other concerned parties should step in and take immediate action to stop this illegal practice.

A. Dias, Safal.

SIR: I am not Marcos loyalist, but I don't see why he should not be allowed to be buried in his homeland. I don't think his burial in the Philippines will create any trouble because this great man will remain breathless forever.

I do believe that God, our creator, will help Corazon Aquino to soften and clean her heart and allow Marcos to be buried along with his beloved mother who remains unburied for 16 months.

Susie Farinas, Rumatilla.

Marcos burial

SIR: Under the cloak of expediency, Arab politicians seem more and more to be prepared to compromise with Zionism. I strongly do not agree that a second class justice will do for Palestine. As my contribution to the Palestinian cause I am preparing a pamphlet arguing this case and working on a history of Zionism.

A.D. Thomas, Saudi Arabia.

Zionism

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A.D. Thomas, Saudi Arabia.

Quote me

"In these days of glasnost and perestroika, it is difficult to understand why the church is still not officially recognised, why our bishops, priests, and faithful are still arrested, harassed and persecuted and why the Russian Orthodox church still officially denies our existence." — Bishop Basil Lossen of the Ukrainian Catholic church questioning glasnost since his church is still illegal.

"I wish to express our great appreciation to all countries that promptly recognised the Palestinian state, while hoping the friendly African nations that haven't done so yet will join their sisterly African and Arab ones in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle and recognising their state." — Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister urging African support for Arab causes at the UN.

"There is no room for the so-called free market since this does not mean to go ahead but to go back to capitalism, and we must in no way allow such a thing to happen." — Romanian communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu telling economic experts in Bucharest that promoting a market economy is a step back to poverty and capitalism.

"With the stroke of a pen, Mr. Herzh assassinated his reputation, his honour, the only thing he wants to take with him to the grave. He used his pen as a sword." — Cyprie Kappeli, former Indian premier Morarji Desai's attorney (quoting Seymour M. Hersh for all-ging in a book that the ex-premier was a CIA informer).

"The way I see it, the former lady lady is just taking this as an opportunity to obtain free passage back to the country to escape the criminal case filed against her in the district court of New York." — Solicitor-General Francisco Chavez on Imelda's excuse to escape criminal justice in America to the Philippines.

هكذا من الاصل

Jordan detains 12 for attack on Israel

AMMAN, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Jordan confirmed today that it had detained 12 members of a Syrian-based Palestinian group in connection with a rocket attack on Israel.

The state-run Petra news agency, quoting an official source, said 12 members of the hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) had been detained.

It said they were being questioned "on

their links to the smuggling of explosives and infiltrators to Jordan to carry out rocket attacks across the ceasefire line (with Israel)."

The source said these activities aimed to "create tension in the area bordering the West Bank and divert attention from the Palestinian uprising, which has chosen the path of mass popular unarmed confrontation with the occupation forces."

"Such actions are intended to vie politically with the peaceful efforts deployed by the PLO at this stage," the source added.

Some rockets had exploded within Jordanian territory, causing damage, and the security forces had detained those involved to stop what the source termed "foolery."

The PFLP, led by George Habash, has

remained with the PLO despite its doubts about the organisation's peace strategy.

An official told Reuters the PFLP members were arrested on Thursday in connection with the firing of two Katyusha rockets from northern Jordan on Sept. 7.

One rocket landed inside Jordan and one exploded on the Israeli side of the border, but caused no casualties.

Break limbs, Israelis asked

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct. 6, (Agencies): A Palestinian teenager shot in a clash with Israeli troops died today and Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip struck in protest at Israeli rule.

Staff at Arab East Jerusalem's Mokassed Hospital said Mohamed Ishami, 17, shot yesterday in the West Bank village of Battir, died of his wounds.

Palestinians in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip stopped work for the second day in response to a five-day strike call by the underground leadership of the 22-month-old uprising.

At least 671 Arabs and 42 Jews have died in the revolt.

An Israeli officer on trial for allegedly beating two Palestinians — one of whom later died — said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had told officers to break Arab arms and legs.

Israel's domestic Itim news agency said lieutenant Ofir Reshef told the court that Rabin and his commanding officer, Colonel Elie Eitan, gave orders to officers in the underground which they interpreted as instructions to smash limbs.

Another of the four defendants said Eitan had told Palestinians in front of his men and that he had been ordered to break the arms and legs of protesters as a deterrent and punishment, Itim said.

Rabin has publicly called for troops to use "might, force and beatings" to combat the Arab revolt.

Israeli troops today turned back seven West European diplomats who tried to visit a curfewed West Bank village that has become a symbol of Palestinian resistance to Israel rule.

The consuls general of Belgium, Britain, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Sweden were stopped at a roadblock near Bethlehem on their way to visit Beit Sahour at the invitation of village mayor Hanna Al-Atrach.

"We regret that western consuls could not visit this village," said a spokesman for the Israeli military. "We don't cause problems... I think it is a mistake to prevent us going in."

Israeli security forces have arrested three Arab journalists in the occupied Gaza Strip suspected of funneling money from the PLO to underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protester and Arab militants stabbed to death and burned a suspected collaborator yesterday.

The army clamped curfews on most refugee camps in the West Bank to limit violence during a five-day strike called by underground leaders in an escalation of the Palestinian uprising.

In the West Bank village of Bidu, near Ramallah, an army patrol shot dead Khaled Hassan Abu Abed, 20, during clashes with stone-throwing demonstrators.

Official military sources said soldiers fired plastic bullets at masked rioters.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, 45-year-old Yousef Dweik, suspected of collaborating with Israeli secret police, was stabbed to death by masked uprising activists during the night.

Arab nations have prepared a draft resolution asking the UN Security Council to consider measures for the protection of Palestinian civilians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Israeli no to talks with Palestinians

Looks for US compromise

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Israel rejected today an Egyptian invitation for talks with Palestinians but ministers signalled they would welcome US help to avert a government crisis over the issue.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud ministers blocked the proposals backed by the more dovish Labour Party. The vote of the 12-member inner-cabinet was a tie — a defeat under cabinet rules.

Despite their defeat, Labour ministers said they would not leave the government but would convene party meetings to decide their next step. They said they would still consider a compromise.

Likud Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said a proposal by Secretary of State James Baker for US-Israeli talks on the composition of a Palestinian delegation was likely to pass an inner-cabinet vote — once it was received in writing.

"I think if the proposal is presented as Mr Baker presented it to me... it will be carried in the cabinet," Arens told reporters.

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Rabin has publicly called for troops to use "might, force and beatings" to combat the Arab revolt.

Israeli troops today turned back seven West European diplomats who tried to visit a curfewed West Bank village that has become a symbol of Palestinian resistance to Israel rule.

The consuls general of Belgium, Britain, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Sweden were stopped at a roadblock near Bethlehem on their way to visit Beit Sahour at the invitation of village mayor Hanna Al-Atrach.

"We regret that western consuls could not visit this village," said a spokesman for the Israeli military. "We don't cause problems... I think it is a mistake to prevent us going in."

Israeli security forces have arrested three Arab journalists in the occupied Gaza Strip suspected of funneling money from the PLO to underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protester and Arab militants stabbed to death and burned a suspected collaborator yesterday.

The army clamped curfews on most refugee camps in the West Bank to limit violence during a five-day strike called by underground leaders in an escalation of the Palestinian uprising.

In the West Bank village of Bidu, near Ramallah, an army patrol shot dead Khaled Hassan Abu Abed, 20, during clashes with stone-throwing demonstrators.

Official military sources said soldiers fired plastic bullets at masked rioters.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, 45-year-old Yousef Dweik, suspected of collaborating with Israeli secret police, was stabbed to death by masked uprising activists during the night.

Arab nations have prepared a draft resolution asking the UN Security Council to consider measures for the protection of Palestinian civilians in Israeli-occupied territories.

PLO withdraws

PARIS, Oct. 6, (Agencies): The State of Palestine will withdraw its demand for membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), Arab diplomatic sources said here yesterday.

The sources told the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) that the Palestinian demand to Unesco will be withdrawn due to "lack of support by traditional advocates of the Palestinian cause."

They explained that the Soviet Union is not standing firm in supporting the Palestinian demand as was the case last spring when the membership of Palestine was blocked in the World Health Organisation.

"If the case is introduced today to the General Assembly, the demand would be refused," said an Arab diplomat, "and the Palestinians do not want to enter a losing battle especially at this particular time."

The Palestinian demand will be presented to the Unesco's executive council later this month and a recommendation in this regard will go to the General Assembly which opens meeting in November.

The Palestinian demand was presented to the executive council as a legal study on the sovereignty of the State of Palestine even when its territories are under occupation.

The United States warned Unesco against voting next week to accept the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a member, saying such a move would virtually permanently close off any possibility of the United States rejoining the body.

The warning was contained in a strongly-worded message sent by Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton to Federico Mayor, director-general of the Unesco, and delivered yesterday.

Unesco's executive board strongly deplored Israel's closure of Arab schools in the occupied territories and its policy on Jerusalem's monuments.

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Shamir's media adviser Avi Pazner told Reuters the prime minister was "considering seriously" the American proposal.

President Hosni Mubarak reaffirmed yesterday that he doesn't object to meeting with Israel's prime minister but only after careful preparations to ensure that something would be achieved.

Mubarak spoke in reply to a question from the American Cable News network after he laid a wreath at the tomb of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

"This needs thorough preparation," he said of a possible meeting with Shamir. "Whenever the meeting is well prepared, no problem for me."

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The Israeli action also threatens the survival of that country's coalition cabinet, said Nabil Shaath.

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Arafat gets Deng backing

BEIJING, Oct. 6, (UPI): Senior leader Deng Xiaoping yesterday congratulated PLO chief Yasser Arafat on being named President of the Palestinian state and wished his people success in their "struggle for independence."

Deng, 85, wore a well-cut gray Mao suit and appeared fit and fairly alert as he met with Arafat at the Great Hall of the People. His health has been the subject of concern, but he has made repeated appearances since he returned to public view last month after a three-month absence.

But during the 20-minute meeting Deng required two translators, one to speak directly into an ear

already aided by a hearing device. His speech was stilted, and at times his voice trailed off.

Arafat arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for a two-day visit. He met on Wednesday night with Chinese President Yang Shangkun.

Deng congratulated Arafat on his being named President of the self-declared state of Palestine.

"Your revolution coincides with our 40th anniversary," Deng said, referring to Oct. 1 National Day celebrations marking 40 years of communist rule. "I welcome you as state President and wish you success in your struggle for independence and sovereignty."

200 lawyers defend editor

RABAT, Oct. 6, (Reuters): More than 200 lawyers crowded into a Moroccan court yesterday to defend one newspaper editor, charged with issuing a false report.

Mohamed Idrissi Kaïtouni of the daily L'Opinion published a joint statement from the Moroccan League and Association of Human Rights saying four people died in detention in August.

After a brief appearance by Kaïtouni, the court postponed the hearing until Oct. 18 at the request of the lawyers representing almost all Morocco's Bar Associations.

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US 'plot to bring Zahir to power'

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Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who heads the hard-line Islamist Hezb-i-Islami rebel group, told a news conference the United States wants to replace Kabul's ruling marxists with Afghanistan's ex-king Zahir Shah because it fears an Islamic republic.

The 74-year-old former monarch has been living in exile in Rome since 1973 when his cousin, Mohammad Daoud, staged a coup with the help of Afghanistan's fledgling communists.

"The United States does not want to see an Islamic government in Afghanistan," said Hekmatyar, despite Washington's self-declared support for an Islamic rebel government-in-exile.

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The Pakistan-based rebel government plans to hold elections for a key consultative council by next February, the group's top election official said.

Syed Ahmad Gailani told a news conference the schedule for the elections in the rebel-controlled areas of Afghanistan and in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran would be announced soon.

Gailani heads the supreme court of the seven-month-old rebel Afghan interim government and is also responsible for the elections, which have been a source of friction in the main Western-backed alliance.

The elected council will approve the present government or set up another, Gailani said.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen killed an Afghan rebel commander in the north-western Pakistan town of Peshawar, the government's news service said.

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 6, (Agencies): A radical Afghan rebel leader has accused the United States of plotting to return the former monarch to Afghanistan to pre-empt an Islamic government in Kabul.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who heads the hard-line Islamist Hezb-i-Islami rebel group, told a news conference the United States wants to replace Kabul's ruling marxists with Afghanistan's ex-king Zahir Shah because it fears an Islamic republic.

The 74-year-old former monarch has been living in exile in Rome since 1973 when his cousin, Mohammad Daoud, staged a coup with the help of Afghanistan's fledgling communists.

"The United States does not want to see an Islamic government in Afghanistan," said Hekmatyar, despite Washington's self-declared support for an Islamic rebel government-in-exile.

Hekmatyar complained that the West was behind a campaign to discredit his party because "we are an organised party and we are not prepared to be part of any conspiracy against an Islamic government."

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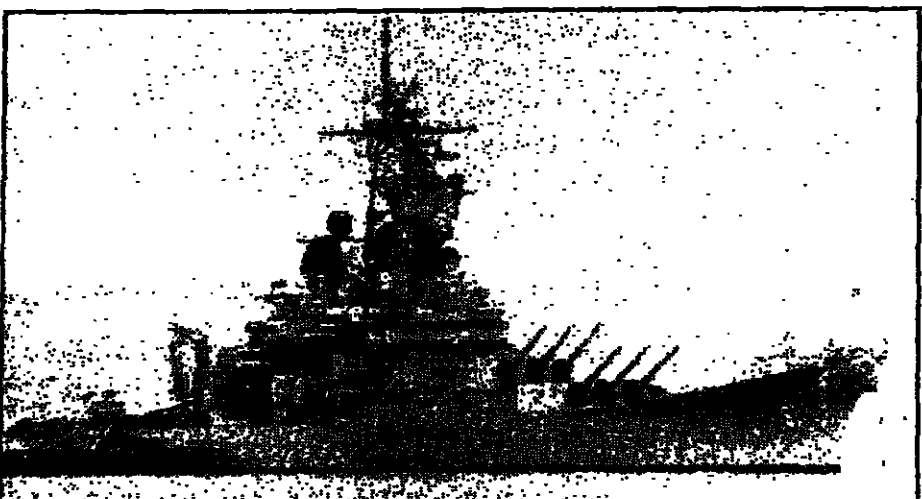
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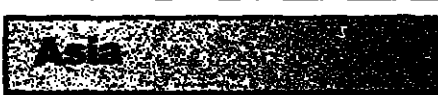
Exodus hopefuls

An East German mother comforts her child outside the West German embassy in Warsaw. They were among more than 100 East Germans at the embassy who are hoping to follow hundreds of compatriots who have already been sent to the West from the Polish capital. (Reuter wirephoto)



US battleship

US battle ship USS Iowa anchors off Istanbul's Süleymaniye mosque, after participating in a Nato exercise Display Determination 1989. USS Iowa carrying Harpoon and Tomahawk missiles was in action in the Pacific during WW II. (Reuter wirephoto)



Nursing home fire: A fire that struck a nursing home while patients were going to sleep killed nine people and injured nearly 100 as rescuers rushed dazed patients to safety through halls flooded with choking smoke.

The elderly evacuees, some in bedclothes and some of whom were naked when they were saved, were helped down hallways and down ladders as firefighters tackled the blaze, reported at 10:30 pm (0230 GMT) on Thursday.

Patients huddled early on Friday on lawns of houses near the 160-bed Hillhaven Rehabilitation and Convalescent Centre, attended by paramedics and neighbours.

The fire was mostly contained to a room on the second floor of the four-storey brick home, but smoke spread throughout, and many of the injured suffered from smoke inhalation, said Norfolk fire chief Thomas E. Gardner.

"I woke up in a roomful of smoke," said patient Robert Bell, 82. "The whole room was saturated with smoke. You couldn't see and you couldn't breathe."

The cause of the fire was immediately determined, but authorities ruled out foul play, Gardner said this morning. (AP)

Bush has surgery: President Bush underwent surgery on Friday at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre for removal of a cyst on the middle finger of his right hand.

The operation, described as minor by White House officials, was ordered after Bush complained the cyst was causing him discomfort.

Bush was scheduled to fly to Camp David for the weekend following the surgery. (Reuter)

Pollution suits: Federal officials announced civil suits on Wednesday against 11 cities where local authorities allegedly allowed untreated toxic industrial wastes into public sewage system.

The Justice Department lawsuits on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency were filed against nine cities, including Detroit, Phoenix and San Antonio, Texas, charging violations of federal water pollution laws.

In addition, San Antonio and two other cities agreed to pay fines totalling \$349,000 as part of separate consent agreements involving past violations that stemmed from the illegal discharges, EPA officials said.

The cases announced on Wednesday involved lawsuits filed this week in federal courts in Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas, Arizona, New York and Pennsylvania. (AP)

Senate approves flag burning ban: The Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly approved a statutory ban on defacing the US flag after sponsors defeated a proposed revision they said could prove fatal in a future court test.

The 91-9 final vote came after manoeuvring by Senate Republicans, who say along with President George Bush that a constitutional amendment rather than a simple statute is the only effective way to counter last June's Supreme Court decision throwing out a Texas flag-burning law.

The bill, which previously passed the House of Representatives but now returns there for consideration of Senate changes, calls for up to a \$1,000 fine and a year in jail for burning or otherwise defacing the flag. Both houses are to consider a proposed amendment to the constitution later this month.

The Democrats say they have carefully worded their bill to protect it against an expected new court challenge on free-speech grounds. (AP)

Branson plans Pacific crossing

LONDON, Oct 6. (Reuter): Pop tycoon Richard Branson announced ambitious plans today to cross the Pacific Ocean non-stop in the biggest hot air balloon ever made.

Branson, whose attempt to fly a balloon across the Atlantic in 1987 ended when he was forced to ditch in the Irish Sea, said the 6,200-mile (10,000 km) crossing was ballooning's last great challenge.

"The only place left to have a go is the Pacific. It is double the length of the Atlantic and, in ballooning terms, it is the last great challenge," he told a news conference.

Branson's balloon, Pacific Flier, is 200 feet (70 metres) tall and has been under construction in secret for the past 18 months.

Branson, 39, head of the Virgin Entertainment Group, will make the flight with Swedish balloonist Per Lindstrand, 41.

Achaboun, told French Radio on Thursday that his daughters were not fundamentalists and that their expulsion smacked of racism.

The headmaster, himself of mixed race, denied any racist intention, saying he was a human rights activist. (Reuter)

Record low temperature: The low temperature laboratory at the Helsinki University of Technology announced on Thursday it has succeeded in pushing down temperatures to a record low of only two billionths of a degree above absolute zero.

Absolute zero, minus 273.15 degrees Celsius (-459.67 Fahrenheit), is unattainable according to the laws of physics, scientists say.

Two billionths of a degree corresponds to two nanokelvin (NK). The previous record of 30 NK, which is in the Guinness Book of Records, was set by the same laboratory in 1984, said professor Olli Lounasmaa, head of the research team.

"The new record was not an aim in itself but a side product of the research we are engaged in. Our main aim is to study the state of matter as close to absolute zero as possible," Lounasmaa said.

The experiment was conducted in a nuclear demagnetization device by Dr Pertti Hakonen from the Helsinki University of Technology and Dr Shi Yin from Michigan State University. (AP)

'Spycatcher' contempt case: The attorney general dropped proceedings on Thursday against Peter Marsh who refused to stop selling 'Spycatcher,' the memoirs of former British intelligence agent Peter Wright, when it was banned in Britain.

At a two-minute private hearing at the high court, a lawyer for Sir Patrick Mayhew formally agreed to discontinue the action against Marsh, 45, owner of Bilbo's bookshop in Bath.

The attorney general will also pay Marsh's £1,725 (\$2,760) legal costs and has agreed not to bring any subsequent action on the same grounds.

Last year, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government finally lost a three-year court battle to ban the book by the former British intelligence agent, who now lives in Australia. (AP)

Same gene plan: All animals, from insects to mammals, may have the same underlying development plan coded into their genes, according to British scientists.

Reporting in the latest issue of Nature magazine, experts from London's National Institute for Medical Research said they found that the way the nervous system developed in fruit flies and mice corresponded closely even though their bodies were radically different.

"It appears that there are profound similarities between vertebrates and insects in the genesis of their body plan," wrote Julian Lewis, a biologist at Oxford University, in an accompanying editorial in the magazine, published on Thursday. (Reuter)



Old Gringo premiered

Gregory Pack and Jane Fonda, two of the stars of the movie Old Gringo engage in conversation as they attend the premiere of the film in New York. (Reuter wirephoto)



Cool Sting

Actor, singer Sting relaxes at a party for Three Penny Opera, at the Old Ebbitt Grill restaurant in Washington, DC. (Reuter wirephoto)

Appeal against extradition: Briton Howard Marks will appeal to Spain's highest court in a final attempt to prevent his extradition to the United States to face drug-smuggling charges, his lawyer said on Thursday.

Lawyer Gustavo Lopez Munoz said he would file an appeal next week with the constitutional court to overturn a high court ruling on Tuesday that Marks should be extradited to the United States.

Marks, called the "Marco Polo" of the drug world by US law enforcement officials, is accused of leading the world's biggest hashish and marijuana smuggling ring.

The court has imposed the condition that if convicted, Marks must not serve more than 30 years in prison, the maximum permitted under Spanish law. (Reuter)

Air Force chiefs summoned: An Italian parliamentary commission on Thursday decided to summon past and present Air Force chiefs for questioning over the mysterious 1980 crash of a civilian airliner which killed all 61 people aboard.

The decision followed growing suspicions in Italy of a high-level cover up over the crash into the sea off Sicily, that experts believe was caused by an air-to-air missile.

Two of 23 Air Force radar officers being investigated by magistrates on charges of hiding evidence and false testimony said last week that contrary to previous official reports the DC-9 was visible on military radar when it went into a steep dive.

Soviet agent: The KGB, eager to present its changing face to the world, today asked to station a liaison officer at the Soviet embassy in the Netherlands, a Dutch police official said on Wednesday.

The new KGB officer would concentrate on exchanging information with Dutch police on issues like extortion, fraud and drug smuggling, a Dutch police official said. (AP)

Military intelligence: Soviet military intelligence has cut its operations by 10 per cent, closing down more than 20 counter-intelligence units in the armed forces, the official news agency Tass reported on Wednesday. (Reuter)

Stormy weather: At least three people died and three were reported missing as gale force winds, snow and torrential rain lashed most of Greece, police reported on Thursday.

The unusual sudden onset on winterlike weather also hampered air, road and sea communications creating delays for thousands of travellers.

On the southern Aegean resort island of Rhodes a house in the village of Theologou collapsed from hours of heavy rain, killing George Papastavrou, 45, and his wife Chrysanthi, 46, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said that a flashflood on the same island swept away a taxi and that its driver, Antonios Kourounas, 55, was missing. (AP)

'Gone With the Wind': The long legal battle in which the heirs of 'Gone With the Wind' author Margaret Mitchell claim French author Regine Deforges plagiarized the American classic in writing her best-selling 'The Blue Bicycle' will be decided in December.



Britain won't take millions: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Wednesday that it was impossible for Britain to take in millions of refugees from Hong Kong and mainland China to take steps to restore the colony's confidence.

That confidence had been shaken by the crackdown on demonstrators in Beijing last June, she said, and "it's really up to the Chinese government to do everything they can to take the requisite action to restore that confidence."

Answering questions at a meeting with foreign journalists, Thatcher said: "We are looking at a scheme to have some people from Hong Kong, but it couldn't be anything like the total number... there is no question of that."

"There will be some key people who it is important should stay in Hong Kong to keep the prosperity and security going," she said. (AP)

US-China policy: The cutback in US relations with China ordered after its June crackdown on the democracy movement will continue, a White House spokesman said.

Deputy spokesman Roman Popadiuk told reporters the government stands by the scaled-down relations with Beijing ordered by President George Bush in June and "nothing I have seen indicates that we will be changing those restrictions or changing our policy."

Popadiuk's statement came in response to a request for comment on China's UN assembly spokesman last Friday declaring that Western complaints about human rights abuses in China were interference in internal affairs. (AP)

New envoy to US: The Japanese government on Friday named Ryoei Murata, former administrative vice-minister for foreign affairs, as its new ambassador to the United States, the Foreign Ministry said.

Murata will be officially appointed to the post next Monday, replacing Nobuo Matsunaga, who is retiring from foreign service.

A native of Kyoto, Murata joined the Foreign Ministry in 1952 after being graduated from Kyoto University's law faculty.

Murata, 59, served as first secretary and counselor at the Japanese embassy in Washington from 1970 to 1972. He was promoted to administrative vice-minister for foreign affairs later in the same year and joined the foreign minister's secretariat in August. (AP)

Gorbachev's visit: Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Thursday hailed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's decision to visit Japan in the year 1991 saying that it indicates the Soviet Union's effort to boost bilateral relations.

The Japanese top diplomat informed the Parliament (Diet) that Japan's "traditional stance" toward levelling regional conflicts and settling a peace treaty with the Soviet Union has not changed. (Kuna)

Cigarette advertising ban: Singapore's Parliament passed a bill on Friday extending a ban on cigarette advertisements to cover private premises, posters and boardings.

Cigarette advertisements were already banned on radio and television and in newspapers. (Reuter)

Typhoon kills 31: Typhoon Brian has killed 31 people and injured 493 others since hitting the island China province of Hainan on Monday night, the New China News Agency said on Friday. (Reuter)

Meeting on atomic threats: Physicians from different parts of the world will meet in Hiroshima on Saturday to attend the 9th conference on atomic war threats, it was announced in Tokyo Thursday.

3,000 physicians from 76 countries are expected to take part in the first gathering in Asia since the first conference on banning the atomic war was held in 1981 in Washington. (Kuna)



On the Asian trail

Pope John Paul left Rome yesterday for a trip to Asia, with the chartered Airitalia Boeing 747 flying over the Soviet Union for the first time on the way East.

The plane was due to fly over Yugoslavia, Hungary, the Soviet Union and Japan before reaching the South Korean capital, Seoul, the first stop on his tour.

Moscow granted the Pope's plane overnight permission to shorten the trip after China, which does not allow its Catholics to recognise papal authority, refused a similar request.

Pope John Paul on Thursday demanded the Kremlin legalise the Ukrainian Catholic church saying Moscow's reform policies would be a travesty otherwise.

The Pope, who will discuss the underground Ukrainian church at a historic meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in November, made some of his toughest comments on the issue in an address to a synod of Ukrainian bishops of the diaspora. The Pope caressing a young Korean girl before his departure. (Reuter wirephoto)



Spoils of war

The military commander of the Khmer Rouge said his guerrillas, feared throughout Cambodia for the ruthlessness, do not intend to take power by force in their homeland.

Son Sen, commander-in-chief of the Khmer Rouge and a close confidante of the movement's notorious leader Pol Pot, said military pressure would be brought on the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh to force them to share power.

"The pressure on the battle front is (meant to) force a settlement," he said, saying the two aims were to force all Vietnamese troops to leave Cambodia and establish a coalition with three guerrilla factions and the Phnom Penh government.

He was speaking to a small group of reporters in a jungle clearing near the Thai border on Thursday, a rare public appearance by any of the group's leaders.

Picture shows Khmer Rouge guerrillas stand next to a captured Vietnamese artillery piece. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hand fractured

Doi slips

TOKYO, Oct 6. (AP): Japan Socialist Party chairman Takako Doi fell on the slippery rain-soaked porch this morning and broke a bone in her left hand, her secretary said.

Masako Goto said the chairwoman of Japan's largest opposition party can still carry out some of her official duties, although the fracture will require two months' treatment.

The accident occurred when Ms Doi returned to her residence near Parliament following a breakfast meeting with Austrian federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who is visiting Tokyo, she said.

Party president

Kaifu stays

TOKYO, Oct 6. (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in office less than two months, was assured of two more years as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party today when he registered as the only candidate for the post.

Thus, he will remain prime minister as long as the Liberal Democrats retain their majority in Parliament, or until his term as party president expires in Oct 1991.

No other members of the LDP filed papers to oppose Kaifu's candidacy by 11 am (0200 GMT) today when the application deadline passed, party officials said.

Kaifu, 58, will be formally declared party president without balloting at a party convention Oct 31, they said.



Causes infertility: Female circumcision is one of the main causes of infertility among African women, a leading medical opponent of the practice said on Wednesday.

Doctor Olayinka Koso-Thomas of Sierra Leone told an international conference on fertility and infertility an estimated 80 million women in 28 African countries had been circumcised with appalling consequences on their health.

"The figure is probably far higher. There are many girls I do not know about. It is a hidden thing, done secretly in many countries," she later told Reuters.

She said many of the women contracted urinary and other infections which left them infertile. Sex also becomes painful, often impossible, without medical help.

Girls as young as seven were often forced to go through a crude "initiation ceremony" performed by local witch doctors in unhygienic surroundings, she said.

"Some of the girls and their bodies are left in the bush," she added.

Doctor Koso-Thomas, the only African woman to address the conference attended by some 3,400 experts, is the author of a major study into the 500-year-old practice which urges the adoption of a 20-year eradication strategy.

A case study of 300 women in Freetown, Sierra Leone, showed that 269 had been circumcised. More than 50 per cent had suffered major medical and psychological problems as a result.

Koso-Thomas said the countries where the procedure was most widely practised were Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Egypt, and Mali. She said the Sudanese government was the only one making a real effort to eradicate the practice.

"It is a political issue. In many of these countries there is an unwritten law that an uncircumcised woman cannot be married. They are fearful of creating instability," she said. (Reuters)

Justifiable homicide: The chief magistrate of Maseru ruled on Thursday that the December killing of a 20-year-old student by Lesotho's military ruler, Maj. Gen. Metsing Lekhanya, was justifiable homicide.

In a five-minute judgement, chief magistrate Letsela Mapetla accepted Lekhanya's testimony that he fired the fatal shot at the student, George Ramone, on the campus of Lesotho's agricultural college in an attempt to rescue a woman "in distress."

The magistrate said Lekhanya's testimony "had not been contradicted."

The woman, Puseleg Makara, testified she was being molested by the student on Dec 23 when Lekhanya, armed with a service pistol, and his bodyguard, arrived on the scene.

Lekhanya testified last month he was patrolling the campus when he heard the woman screaming and fired two warning shots at the fleeing student before a fatal shot. Lekhanya was unable to explain why his bodyguard initially told police he had killed the student. (UPI)

Students face prison terms: More than 50 students are to appear in court after an anti-government riot that led to the closure of Zimbabwe's only university, police said on Thursday.

The arrested demonstrators, among 4,000 University of Zimbabwe students who clashed with paramilitary police on Wednesday, face prison terms of up to five years if convicted of riotous assembly, attorneys said.

Students rampaged through the campus, smashing buildings and cars and hurling rocks at baton-wielding riot police, after law enforcement officers arrested two of their leaders in a pre-dawn raid on university rooms. (AP)

Canadian Mounted Police: Up to 190 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be arriving in Namibia soon to join the UN force monitoring the territory's transition to independence, the Canadian embassy said on Thursday.

The embassy said the Mounties would serve a six-month tour of duty, mostly in northern Namibia, monitoring the local police and protecting election facilities and personnel. The United Nations transition assistance group recently requested an increase in police monitors to 1,500, above the 500 originally budgeted for the operation. (AP)

Replace judge: A district court handling the trial of four suspects charged with the murder of two Mormon missionaries is expected to name a new investigating judge next week.

Judge Nestor Loredo's resignation, requested by the prosecuting attorney, was accepted by the court Wednesday.

Loredo had attempted to resign previously, but his resignation was rejected at first. (UPI)

Terrorists sentenced: A three-member court yesterday found 20 persons guilty of terrorism and murder and sentenced them to jail terms ranging from life to 10 years in jail.

Thirteen of the 20 defendants, accused of staging an assault on the 3rd Infantry barracks at La Tablada, were sentenced to life imprisonment.

An alleged ringleader of the assault, Roberto Felicitati, 36, a journalist, was among those sentenced to life. (UPI)

TV executive kidnapped: Television executive Hector Delgado Parker has been kidnapped by suspected leftist guerrillas after a gun battle that left his driver dead and his bodyguard seriously wounded, police said.

Delgado, the top news executive of Channel 5 television station, had served as an adviser to President Alan Garcia before resigning two years ago in disagreement with Garcia's efforts to nationalise Peru's banks.

Delgado was kidnapped Wednesday six blocks from Channel 5 in the middle-class suburb of Lince. His family has controlling interest in the station. (AP)

Kidnappers release Brazilian: Kidnappers released prominent Brazilian businessman Luis Salles after a \$2.5 million ransom ended 65 days of captivity, family members said yesterday.

The businessman, owner of Salles Inter American Advertising Agency, one of Brazil's largest advertising agencies, was freed Wednesday night, one day after his captors, who first demanded a \$5 million ransom, received a lesser payment negotiated with the Salles's family.

Salles, 65, heavily bearded and having lost 11 pounds (5 kg) since he was abducted on July 31 near his home as he was driving from office, arrived to his residence in southern Sao Paulo, in a taxi after he was released at a subway station, the sources said. (UPI)

Shevardnadze leaves Cuba: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left Cuba for Moscow on Thursday following a 22-hour visit after telling journalists that the meeting with Cuban leader Fidel Castro had been fruitful.

He gave Castro a farewell embrace before climbing the ramp of his Aeroflot Ilushin 62 which took off shortly after 5:00 pm local time (2100 GMT). (Reuter)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economists, bankers meet

KUWAIT, Oct. 6, (AP): Some 400 economists, bankers and financiers from the United States, Britain and other countries will meet tomorrow to discuss the impact of the "globalisation" of financial markets on the region, a leading Kuwaiti academic said today.

Modi Al Homoud, chairman of the organising committee for the conference, said that the 3-day symposium will debate developments on international financial markets.

"It has become imperative for us to acquaint ourselves with the new trends in world markets and examine their impact on the GCC countries," she told the Associated Press.

The symposium will include experts from the six member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council, which groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Homoud, dean of the faculty of economics at Kuwait University, said that the discussions will cover economic policies related to the spread of financial markets, the response of market forces to foreign debts by Third World countries, the organisation of financial markets and the changing role of financial intermediaries and investment strategies.

Oil conference

Experts to discuss new growth era

LONDON, Oct. 6, (Kuna): An important oil conference "A new decade — a new growth era?" is to be held here later this month, focussing on issues of prominence in world energy sectors.

The 10th international conference jointly sponsored by the Herald Tribune newspaper and the American oil daily, Oil and Money, will take place on October 19-20 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Central London.

Organisers said that this year's conference will also discuss the ability of Opec to influence prices as "the group is destined to remain one of the most significant elements in any future equation."

Among other topics will be the emergence of Europe in 1992 as the world's largest single trading block, market prospects and the environmental challenge and its impact on the oil industry.

The meeting is designed to assist senior executives in the field of energy and finance in determining their strategies for the early 1990s.

Delegates to the gathering will be addressed by a distinguished line-up of speakers including: Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Hisham Nazer, as well as Iraq's Minister of Oil Isam Chalabi.

The Minister of Petroleum and Energy in Norway, Arne Oien, and British Energy Secretary John Wakeham will also address the gathering.

Dr Subroto, secretary-general of Opec will be the guest speaker at a special dinner, marking the 10th anniversary of the conference.

Opec keeps oil taps wired

Opec, non-Opec ties good omen for stability

BRUSSELS, Oct. 6, (Agencies):

"At no time in the past, have relations between Opec and non-Opec oil producers shown such promise, and I regard this as a good omen for future oil market stability," Opec secretary-general Dr Subroto said here last evening.

In an address to the Royal Institute for International Relations he said contacts between the two groups has intensified over the last 18 months and 1989 had seen a "highly encouraging" level of co-operation.

He said he believed that the opportunity now existed to put the "unfortunate era" surrounding the 1986 price collapse "firmly behind us," allowing future relations among oil producers, and between producers and consumers, to be conducted "in a different and much healthier atmosphere."

But, Subroto warned that market stability was not something that, having once been achieved, would remain in force on its own. "It has to be constantly nurtured and supported by all parties that brought it into being."

No plan to discuss export cuts

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Officials of oil-producing nations outside Opec who began a two-day meeting here yesterday will not discuss cutting their exports to help the oil organisation boost world prices, delegates said.

"That (export cuts) is not on the agenda anymore," Gustavo Hobar, Mexico's director-general of energy policy said.

"We're not discussing it. That doesn't mean we're not doing it, we're just not talking about it," he said. Six non-Opec states agreed to cut exports by 300,000 barrels per day (BPD) in the second quarter of this year to support the efforts of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to stabilise oil prices around \$18 a barrel.

The non-Opec group did not call a meeting to discuss third-quarter export levels, but a Mexican Energy Ministry spokesman said in June the group would maintain the limits agreed for the second quarter.

Representatives from Malaysia, Mexico, Angola, China, Oman and Brunei are attending this week's talks. The Soviet Union, North Yemen, Norway, the Canadian province of Alberta and US states of Alaska and Texas have sent observers.

The committee decided the group's output ceiling should be raised by one million BPD to 20.5 million in the fourth quarter, but it did not resolve the long-standing problem of distributing output quotas among the 13 member nations on a permanent basis.

capacities.

He estimated that Opec countries would be supplying around 27 million bpd of oil to the market in six years, which was expected to rise to more than 30 million bpd by the end of the century. Conversely, non-Opec supplies were projected to fall by about one million bpd by the year 2000.

Secondly, steps being contemplated in consuming countries to

dependence on oil supplies from Opec should be carried out "smoothly and without rancour, through co-operation."

It was universally acknowledged in the oil industry that non-Opec production had already peaked and that growing demand for oil could only be met in the future by releasing the shut-in capacity in Opec member countries to be followed by the development of additional

reduce oil demand without reference to market forces should be reconsidered, he said.

Thirdly, said Subroto, "we must endeavour to create a climate of mutual trust and respect in our negotiations". For example, net oil-importing industrialised countries should be able to demonstrate "good faith and confidence" in Opec countries by undertaking joint ventures, resulting in net inflow of investment into Opec member states and vice versa.

Opec nations kept their oil production at a high level in September, pumping well above the output ceiling just set by any organisation officials, according to estimates released yesterday.

The International Energy Agency said in its monthly oil market report that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries lifted about 22.3 million barrels of crude a day in September, the same as in August.

Call to create new jobs for Kuwaitis

Circular sent to ministries

KUWAIT, Oct. 6, (Kuna): The Finance Ministry has urged that figures of the state budget should express the socio-economic objectives and the five-year plan worked out by the government for the coming period.

Assistant finance undersecretary for budgetary affairs Abdul Aziz Al Roumy today said that a circular to this effect had been sent to various government ministries and departments to guide them in preparing their budgets for fiscal 1990-91.

The circular directive, he explained, advised that enough room should be made in budget projections for creation of new state jobs to absorb Kuwaiti graduates of universities and institutes.

Ample consideration should as well be given to international conditions affecting the domestic economy and its reflection on available government resources, Al Roumy stressed.

The official underlined necessity to co-ordinate between the government programme and individual aims sought by ministries and departments in order that final budgets can serve as control means for future performance.

Draft budgets are to be submitted to the Finance Ministry for referring them to the concerned authorities at least two months before start of the new fiscal year, Roumy said, adding that budget committees in each ministry should meet to lay its budget projections by December 31 at latest.

He cautioned that delay or failure by the official in charge to oblige would render him liable to disciplinary action and advised continued adherence to a policy of rationalised spending.

Oil demand soars

Asian countries make shift away from oil dependence

LONDON, Oct. 6, (Reuters): The West is failing to keep up its emergency stocks of oil to match a sudden jump in petroleum consumption, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), its energy watchdog.

The IEA brought out new estimates yesterday confirming a judgement in July that oil demand is now about back where it was at the market's historic peak in 1979.

World consumption outside the communist nations was expected to be 52.1 million barrels per day (BPD) in 1989, the IEA said, firming up a July estimate of around 52 million.

That is a gain of 1.2 million BPD on the last year and about equal with 1979 — just before world-wide oil demand was sent tumbling in reaction to prices as high as \$40 per barrel.

Weaker demand forced prices

down in the middle of the decade. Now, weak prices are helping demand back up again.

But the IEA said oil stocks in the 24 industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as of October 1, were down to 92 days' forward cover.

That compares with 95 days a year ago, and is the lowest at the start of the northern autumn since the 1970s.

A big difference between today and 1979, when a cut in Iran's exports at a time of surging demand made it possible for Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to send prices to \$40, is that Opec's contribution to supply is now much smaller.

Meanwhile, Asian countries have shifted radically away from dependence on oil over the past two decades by tapping alternative local energy resources, an

Asian Development bank expert said in Manila today.

ADB energy adviser Vishvanath Desai said developing countries in Asia had coped better with the 1970s oil crisis than most poor nations in Africa and Latin America by rapidly diversifying energy consumption.

"It has been quite significantly... a radical structural change," he said in a telephone interview, adding it had contributed to the region's dramatic economic growth.

Countries in the region, excluding China and India, depended on oil for 93.5 per cent of total energy supply in 1973 against 62 per cent in 1987, according to the study.

The report showed that China and India were already heavily dependent on coal in the early 1970s, with consumption patterns remaining static up to 1987.

Gold prices dip

Dollar edges up

LONDON, Oct. 6, (Reuters): The dollar defied concerted central bank intervention and the after-effects of a round of European interest rate rises to firm on currency markets today.

Gold prices fell. For the 10th successive trading day leading central banks intervened on the open market to try to choke any rally by the US currency but the dollar remained strong because of continued investor demand.

The US currency is currently trading close to where it was on September

25, the first trading day after the finance ministers of leading industrial nations said in Washington that a strong dollar was bad news for the world economy.

That statement, issued in the run-up to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting, heralded a campaign of concerted intervention by leading central banks to force the dollar well below the highs of two marks and 149 yen it reached in June. But, after an initial tumble to around 1.88 marks and 142 yen, the

dollar has stubbornly refused to fall further, buoyed by high US interest rates on dollar investments.

The British pound sterling traded at \$1.6030, compared to 1.6100 yesterday.

Gold dropped \$1.75 in London, selling at a late bid price of \$363.25 a troy ounce.

In Zurich, gold was lower, closing at a bid \$362.80 compared with \$364.75 late yesterday.

Gold in Hong Kong fell \$2.91 to close at a bid \$364.20.

Arabs promote new petrochemical projects

Study sees surge in demand for ethylene

By Sonny Abraham
Arab Times staff

WORLD-WIDE demand for ethylene and propylene is expected to continue growing at an annual rate of 4 per cent in the next few years. In fact, production of these petrochemical products has been increasing at healthy rates over the past few years because of the continuing growth in demand for plastics in general.

According to the 15th annual report of the Secretary-General of Opec, the world chemical industry in general and the petrochemical industry in particular have enjoyed high rates in the past three years.

The petrochemical sector achieved a good level of performance in 1988, which is expected to continue through the current year, it said.

Demand for most petrochemical products was high in 1988 and prices rose significantly even as the cost of raw materials, especially naphtha, declined. This allowed producers to operate their plants at high rates of capacity.

Actions taken by the industry during the early 1980s to limit or eliminate overcapacity have brought demand and capacity into better balance in recent years, and petrochemical plants were, in general, running at close to designed capacities in

1988, the report said. It said that world ethylene capacity saw some increase last year as a result of new additions, the restarting of idle units and the debottlenecking of existing plants.

In Western Europe, ethylene capacity rose to about 13.4 million metric tons in 1988, while actual production amounted to some 14 million tons, giving an average utilization rate of 91 per cent. Demand is expected to continue growing at an annual rate of between 3 and 5 per cent in the next three years.

In the United States, ethylene capacity in mid-1988 stood at about 17 million tons, while demand was estimated to be close to 16 million tons — the first time that US capacity came close to demand.

Total US ethylene production rose by 11.1 per cent to about 17 million tons, representing a capacity utilization of close to 100 per cent, the report said.

Japan's ethylene capacity in mid-1988 stood at about 4.3 million tons, which was about 5.6 million tons less than in 1983. Demand projections for ethylene in Japan indicated that the annual growth (3.8 per cent) may be high enough to cause a shortage in capacity in the early 1990s.

The deficit could well be met by imports from other Far Eastern countries such as Korea and Taiwan,

both of which are planning major ethylene projects to meet their increasing demand. The new capacities, which are expected to be operational by 1992, will add some 1.4 million tons to the existing combined capacity of about 1.5 million tons, the report said.

According to the report, the USSR has launched an ambitious programme to develop several large petrochemical plants in western Siberia with the help of Western firms.

In Latin America, the petrochemical sector is experiencing continuous growth, with Brazil, in particular, moving rapidly from import substitution to export.

The report said that the Arab petrochemical industry in 1988 was generally characterized by moves to expand the existing facilities so as to reach both vertical and horizontal integration of this important sector.

A number of Arab organisations have either completed or are conducting studies with the aim of identifying and promoting new petrochemical projects. The projects under study include the production of aromatic compounds such as benzene, toluene, xylenes and their derivatives.

In Kuwait, the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) signed a licensing agreement with Union Carbide to construct an 80,000 tons

polypropylene plant in the Shuaiba industrial area. This follows a decision by the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to revamp its fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) unit at Mina Ahmadi to 40,000 tons. This unit will supply feedstock to the propylene plant.

The report noted that Algeria had signed a licensing agreement for a linear alkyl benzene (LAB) plant to be located in the industrial zone of Skikda. Other projects like the synthetic fibres plant and a plastics unit are still under consideration.

Iraq has also recently announced plans for a major petrochemical complex named PC2, which will produce a wide range of intermediate and final products. The 420,000 tons ethylene plant will form the basis of the project's first phase.

Libya is also going ahead with the second stage of its existing Ras Lanuf petrochemical complex. It was also reported to be in the final stage of awarding contracts for the construction of plants for the production of butadiene, benzene and butene, among other products, the report said. Contracts for a polypropylene unit and high density polyethylene plant were also reported to have been awarded in early 1988.

According to the report, in Saudi Arabia, plans were announced by the private sector for a number of petrochemical projects.

ACC oil ministers meet

BAGHDAD, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Oil ministers from the four-nation Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) will hold their first meeting in Baghdad tomorrow to draft an oil and energy pact.

The government daily Al-Jumhuriya today quoted Oil Minister Isam Abdul-Rahman Chalabi as saying the agreement would tackle the use of energy and unification of oil product specifications.

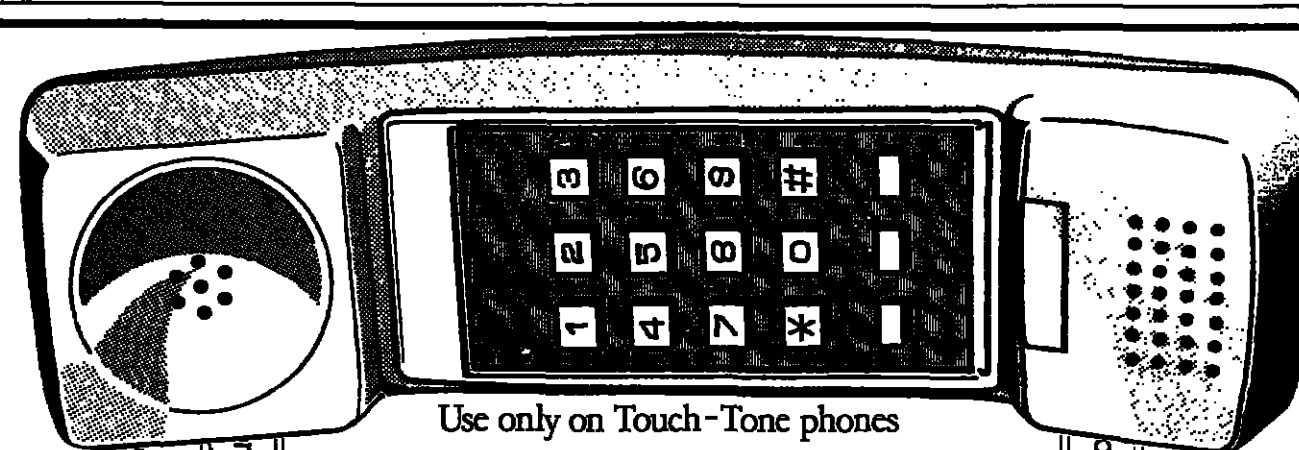
The ACC, grouping Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen, was inaugurated in Baghdad last February.

Iraq is a member of both the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapex). Egypt is an Opec member but Jordan and North Yemen belong to neither.

The daily quoted the executive director of Iraq's oil marketing commission, Ramzi Salman, as saying ACC oil exports were discussing a joint oil policy to strengthen and activate the work of oil companies.

দেহবাংলা বানিযা সংস্থা লিঃ
DESHBANGLA BANIJYA SANGSTHA LTD.
৪১/৪/২, ফার্মেসী রোড, ঢাকা-১১০০

The first general meeting of the members of the Deshbangla Baniya Sangstha Limited will be held on Friday the 20th October, 1989 at 7.00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Kuwait.
All shareholders are requested to attend the meeting.



Use only on Touch-Tone phones

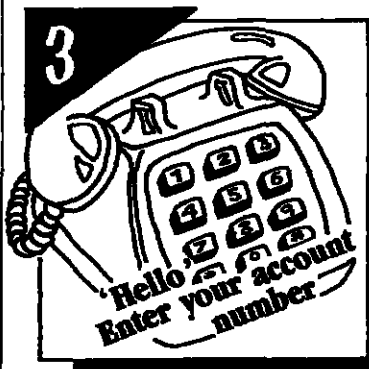
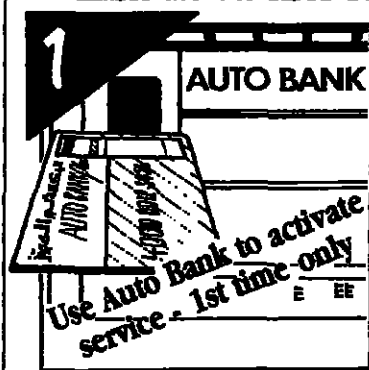
Phonelink for Auto Bank Card Holders

Apply via your Auto Bank Machine

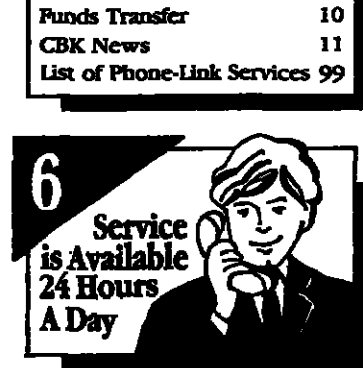
By dialling the number below you can obtain a wide range of information in English or Arabic on your accounts and the bank's services.

For your protection you must for the first time only request use of this service through any Auto Bank machine.

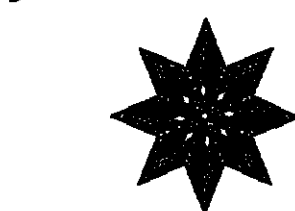
The way to use the service and the initial functions available are described below.



List of services	
Services	Code
Balance Enquiry	1
Short Statement	2
Full Statement	3
Cheque Book Request	4
Exchange Rates	5
Interest Rates	6
Loan Balance Enquiry	7
Report Lost or Stolen Auto Bank Card	8
Details on Auto Bank Plus Card	9
Funds Transfer	10
CBK News	11
List of Phone-Link Services	99



Easy to understand. Easy to use.



Commercial Bank
The Bank For Today

Commercial Bank The Bank For Today

The following branches are open between 4 - 6 pm, Saturdays to Wednesdays:
• Fahsheel • Salimiyah • Jabra • Farwaniya

EVENTS

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Thurban Pharmacy
Arabian Gulf St.
Al Muntaser Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Kuwait Pharmacy
Qutubah St.
Salmiya
Habbu Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahaheel and Ahmedi
Gulf Pharmacy Complex St.
Kheitan
Tawfiq Pharmacy Kheitan
Jahra
Abraj Pharmacy
Jahra

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Young Guns
Salmiya
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Arabic Film
Drive-In
Arabic Film
Al Firdous
Do Prentice
Fahaheel Open-Air
Mela
Fahaheel
Moonam Mora
Al Jahra
Avalanche Express
Granada
Bruce Lee in New Guinea
Sutalibhat
Arabic Film
Jeeb
Mudra
Ahmedi Drive-In
Stake out.

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.26 am
Zohr 11.36
Asr 2.57 pm
Maghreb 5.27
Isha 6.44



Buddy Patungan is on the right with the rest of the Amadeus cast.

The saga of Amadeus

By Ruffy E. Sanchez

THE brouhaha has just begun and bedlam breaks loose whenever the Filipino Cultural Club (FCC) goes on stage. It sounds so hyperbolic but in every corner FCC is becoming a hot item and there's no stopping it. Why? It's due to the perfect chemistry of stage director Joey Laurente and choreographer-turned-actor Lito Matig-a, the artistic thespians behind the club's going up, up and away.

There is only one FCC veering away from the myriad and mediocre type of entertain-

ment. Equipped with unique innovations and talented performers, FCC can adopt one of the most aesthetic branches of arts-literature with promethean treatment on its forthcoming play production of Amadeus.

The play, "The Saga of Amadeus" written by Peter Shaffer accounts the illustrious career of the music genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This literary treasure has received tremendous merits and recognition from critics and scholars of comparative literature.

Amadeus topbills Lito Matig-a (Salieri)

and Mandy Salvo (Mozart) in the lead roles. Other historic figures completing the dramatist personae are Dick Orsese, Rod Manalo, Jun Sta Maria, Madeline Ramos, Jean Pastor, Pamela Colina, Marissa Arce and many others.

See for yourselves when FCC's Fiesta Teatro stages Amadeus on October 20, Friday, 6 pm at the Grand Al Jahra Ballroom of Le Meridien Hotel.

"Remember nobody does it better, only FCC!" quips executive director Engr. Buddy Patungan.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Khir News and Variety
9.55 Around The World: Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite
10.30 Shay Ismoh Al Hob: Daily Arabic Serial
11.30 Sabah Al Khir and Variety
12.00 Fi Matbaki: Programme

EVENING

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite
4.45 Al Forsan Al Thalatha: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Al Fanan Al Sagheer: Children Programme
6.15 Al Tareeq Illa Al Quds: Historical Serial, starring: Mamoud Yassen, Yousif Shaban, Tawfeeq Al Daqen, Karam Mtawe
7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious Programme
8.00 Nathra Alla Al Alam: Cultural Programme
8.30 Security and Citizens: Local Programme
8.35 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 Arabic News
9.45 Ahlan Ya Jedo Al Aziz: Arabic Serial (Part 7), starring: Faeed Shawel, Safiya Al Omari, Tayseer Fahmi and Salah Al Sadani
10.30 Lobat Al Karasi: Local Serial (Part 2), starring: Hayat Al Fahad, Mohammed Al Mansoor, Suad Abdullah, and Msafer Abdul Aziz.

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Hello Kitty: A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Story-Teller: "The Heartless" The King's youngest son sets the jailed monster free who starts killing and destroying whatever comes his way.
7.00 A Day in The Life: A dialogue between a Hawk and an owl... a look at other animals and birds.
7.30 Out of This World: "Dewy" a chemist student is a socially retarded person, who is mocked at by his mates... "Evie" attempts to help him... Will she succeed?

8.00 News in English
9.30 Portrait of The Soviet Union: "Mother Russia" a look at arts, music, sculpture, religion and cultural heritage in Russia and the Soviet Union.
10.30 Movie "The Penalty Phase": Starring: Peter Strauss... Johnnie Lee Allen. A young man is accused of killing and attacking 17 girls... But the judge refuses to accept the young man's confession and insists on continuing the investigation.
12.00 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine Actualite.



A scene from 'Mother Russia', KTV-2, 9.30 pm

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.
Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Watercolour Painting
LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. 8 week courses for Beginners and Advanced for details tel: 5618847.

Pottery and Crafts
Develop your child's creativity in pottery & crafts (8-12 yrs old). Also watercolour painting and jewellery making for adults. For details Tel: 5618847, 5317354, 9 am - 12 noon & 4 - 6.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Colva Nite
OCT 19: Annual Colva Nite at New Ballroom of Ramada Al Salen Hotel. Top Ranks in attendance. For details contact Tel: 2413884/2434776/56291-41/4310913 after 5 pm.

Breeze 89
Tiviv Centre's Breeze 89 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam Hotel's new ballroom on 26.10.89 at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Rank and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music. Highlights include Made For Each Other Contest, a Ball Room Competition and a lot of surprises. For further information please contact Casimiro or Mario on Tel. No. 2441860/67, after 3.30 pm.

Moods & Melody
"Moods & Melody" performs "Geet Mania" - a presentation of pop songs from Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu films on 12th October 1989 at Indian Arts

Canadian Women's League
THE first meeting of the season will be held on Saturday, Oct 7, 4 to 7 pm. Maps available from the Canadian embassy, or contact Tel: 3718678. New members welcome.

Weekend

The fifth season of the local English-language programme, Weekend, starts this Friday on KTV2 at 9.30 pm. Prepared by Aadeb Shuaiber and directed by Adel Al Najjar, it will feature local news and views of interest to English-speakers. One item of interest could be a spot feature on the renovation of the old souks, recently initiated by the government here.

Bengali Cultural Society
Bengali Cultural Society celebrates Bijoya on 12th October. For details contact 4315561, 5613014, 5617036.

Kuwait Little Theatre - Ahmedi
Auditions for the annual pantomime will take place in the theatre foyer on Oct 8 and 9 at 7.30 pm. Anyone interested in taking part in this production, either on stage or backstage, please come along. All newcomers welcome.

Sheba Sound
SHEBA Sound, a classical quartet of oboes, bassoon and harpsichord, will perform at the Mousetrap Theatre on Oct 14, at 8.00 pm - price KD4; and at Messilah Beach Hotel on Oct 15, where the performance will include a sit-down dinner for KD9, inclusive.

Please ring 5382099 for reservation and look out for posters in Tanagra boutiques who are sponsoring the visit.

Kalpak's drama competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition at Indian Arts Circle on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction, stage setting, best actress (Prem Nazir Award) best actor and best child artist, from the selected entries.

Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Mr Varghese Paradayil, POB 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait, no later than 31st Oct 1989.

For more details pls contact Varghese (Tel: 5635481), Kurien (Tel: 5658072) or Balakrishnan (Tel: 4316737).

Carnatic Music
THERE will be a Music Performance by Maharajapuram Santhanam on October 17, 1989. For your reservations contact Tel: 5627718 or 5631230 or 5612114.

LTL Bazaar
ALL vendors who want to be in the bazaar must come to the vendor's meeting at the Kuwait International Hotel on October 8 from 4-6 pm in the Safat Room. For information call: 4873185 from 3.30 - 6 pm. Kuwait International

THURSDAY NIGHT

COOKOUT: Start the weekend with our Thursday evening Garden Pool Barbecue from 7:00 pm onwards. Offers a wide buffet selection of charcoal grilled specialties - steaks, beef ribs, chicken, salads and desserts at KD 4.900 for adult and half price for child under 12 years. Ext 800638007.

AUSTRIAN CAKE PROMOTION: From Oct 14 to November 16 at La Patisserie. Our Austrian Pastry Chef Christoph Brandi will delight you with typical Austrian delicatessens like Cardinal Tarte, Baron Puckler Tarte, Apple Upside Down Tarte, Linzer Tarte and many more. Hot beverage include Vienna Milk Coffee and Vienna Cinnamon Coffee. Ext: 8014.

ATERNON TEA: At La Patisserie from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Offers the finest teas, delicious salmon and cucumber sandwiches, mouthwatering pastries and not to forget those delicious scones, strawberry jam and lovely fresh cream. Pianist and harpist in the evenings.

PERRIER PROMOTION: For that tingling taste one can try perrier lemon, perrier lime and fresh kiwi juice, perrier and apple juice or a variety of other creations. Served in all the outlets.

FAILAKA: Daily chef's special for lunch and dinner. Special mezzeh buffet on Thursday evenings. Live entertainment during dinner. Ext: 8012.

LA PALMA: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Tel: 2530000/8166.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Children's Halloween Party on October 31. Delightful prizes for the best fancy costumes. Games, music, entertainment, magic show. Disneyland characters, a huge Kiddie Castle and "be-witching" dishes for dinner. KD 3.500 for child under 12 years. At the Garden Pool from 5:00 - 8:30 pm. Book now.

Sir Syed Day
Aligarh Muslim University old boys will celebrate Sir Syed Day on 26th October at 8 p.m. at SAS Hotel.

Competitions for all participating children will be held in various categories in fancy dress, painting, general and Islamic knowledge etc. Please contact Farid Chowdhury (Tel: 4842037/5623585), Zahoorullah Shah (5657479/4891275) Salman Siddiqui (3923393).

Boys own club
Boys own club are happy to announce that they will organise their one day seven a side football festival on 12th of Oct. 1989 at Al Sour ground. The draw will be held at 6.30 am on the same day and the matches will start at 7 am sharp. This tournament has been

sponsored by M/s Kuwaiti British Ready Mix Company.

Teams wishing to enter this tournament can contact Joe D'Souza on Tel No. 4813622/25 ext. 147.

Danish meeting
Oct 19, 7 pm. Daniella starts social season with "Grillealten" (BBQ Evening) at the Gazette Club. For reservations please call Karen-Marie Tel: 3715146 or Winnie - Tel: 5733382 before Oct 17.

HOTELS

Kuwait Continental
GARDENIA: Open from 7 am to midnight, offers a dinner buffet on Thursday nights and Friday lunch, consisting of Jumbo prawns, biryani and other charcoal grilled Continental, Arabic and Indian specialties. Our new Gardenia menu features chicken and mixed grill sizzlers, which are everyone's favourite.

DARBAR: Offers an Indian buffet daily for lunch, consisting of a wide range of kebabs, salads and Indian curries. At dinner time, our A La Carte menu offers tandoori delicacies and special curries of the day.

SAS
AL GHAZEER: Take the unique opportunity and experience the old Kuwaiti seafaring traditions. Have an exhilarating trip on our superb dhow "Al Ghaizer". Available for full day and half day trip along the Gulf coastline. For bookings, please call up 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: Come on board Al Boom and have a feast. Try our freshly baked Arabic bread, extensive mezzeh buffet and wide selections of grilled items or take your pick from our daily Al Boom specials. Take your della coffee and relax at the diwani or enjoy a puff at the hubble bubble pipe. For reservations, please call up 5657000 ext. 403 and 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: visit the Far East with SAS, visit our Peacock Room. Offers wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialties. Open for lunch and dinner daily. For reservations pls call 5657000 ext 403 or 532.

BISTRETTO: Have a taste of Italy. Visit the Bistretto, SAS hotel's speciality restaurant. Offers great tasting pastas, pizzas and other Italian favourites. Continental and international are also available. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We also have brunch every Friday.

CLOCK: Drive through the Clock and order your choice fast food items. Juicy burgers, chicken tikka, crispy French fries and lots of other items we can serve you on the dot.

MONGOLIAN BBQ: Try something different, try our Mongolian BBQ. For only 5 KD for adults and 3 KD for children, you can have welcome

drinks, hot soup, special dessert and the pleasure of mixing your own combination of meats, vegetables and sauces. You can even watch our trained cook turn it into a real Genghis Khan Mongolian BBQ. Our duo Paradise will entertain you with delightful music while you dine by the poolside. Every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock at our Viking pool. For reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext 403.

At the Holiday Inn
THE COFFEE SHOP: A variety of continental and Oriental cuisine to suit everyone's taste for lunch or dinner at KD5.000 per pax and half price for children.

AL ANDALUS: Thursday, Arabian night. Savour the exotic food especially prepared for the night. Our local entertainers provide wonderful music.

FAMILY BRUNCH: Friday, a wholesome day for the children. Bring along your kid and enjoy entertainment from Walt Disney cartoon characters and magic by the great magician. Prizes and surprises awaits each kid. Price KD5.000 for adults and half per kid.

THE SWIMMING POOL: From 8.30 pm have a great night out by the pool to soothe the summer heat. Barbecue, music, games, prizes and surprises awaits each one. Bring your family 'n friends 'n savour our delicious Sharazad barbecue at KD5.500 per pax and KD2.750 per child.

Meridien
Our new VERSAILLES menu: The Versailles Restaurant celebrates the new season with an exciting new a la Carte menu featuring delicious new seafood dishes and always the great value business. Enjoy a truly elegant and dining experience with the fine cuisine and atmosphere. International music is provided by Jo Lee a veritable One Woman Band is guaranteed to help to make a dinner at the Versailles truly a night to remember.

LA BRASSERIE: New menu at the La Brasserie... definitely worth the wait. The new a la Carte menu at the La Brasserie features a terrific choice of appetizer, entree and dessert. In addition to a lavish buffet with different starters various hot dishes and mouth-watering desserts. And remember the buffet changes daily for the guests.

Every Saturday THAI CORNER: Enjoy genuine Thai cuisine at the La Brasserie the Thai Corner features a variety of great authentic dishes in addition to the restaurants regular lavish buffet.

Every Sunday COWBOY NIGHT: Taste the Texas fare at the La Brasserie no compromise with this salute to the US includes live foot tappin country and Western music

plus decor costumes and ambience with more than a touch of the real Wild West.

Every Wednesday the INDONESIAN CORNER: Enjoy some of the country's best loved dishes at the La Brasserie in addition to the regular Brasserie buffet.

Every Thursday evening the JAZZ NIGHT: Tuck in to the tempo... experience an evening of the great jazz sound in jam session at the La Brasserie featuring delicious sea food buffet with that catch of the day freshness plus a range of local and international dishes.

Every Friday FAMILY LUNCH: Friday equals family fun only at La Brasserie... lavish buffet... live entertainment toys and gifts for the children and even some real magic.

Achieving new heights in good taste: New menu at AL FINTAS CLUB, super choice of low calories snacks, sandwiches and salads with tasty, good health appeal, especially when preceded by a few laps in the adjacent rooftop swimming pool.

AL FINGAN (TEA LOUNGE): Stay on top and stay cool with our milkshakes promotion: As from the 17th to the 28th Sept there will be lots of variety of delicious milkshake flavours: mango, chocolate, banana, strawberry... there can a little more refreshing on a scorching summer day than a mouth-watering milkshake whipped up Meridien style why not make it a daily treat.

AL WAHA PALACE: Pasta promotion at Al Waha Palace at the Salfia Commercial Complex till the 26th Sept pasta fortnight. Enjoy a La Carte and daily special pasta dishes like fettuccine ravioli, tortellini, salad pasta, and more. Discover why pasta is Italy's national dish while enjoying Al Waha's pavement where you can watch the world go by while experiencing the superb cuisine and gracious service that typifies Meridien.

Messilah Beach Hotel
AL MUBARAKIAH: The only 24 hours restaurant in Kuwait, offers a full spectrum of local & continental specialties with daily buffet for breakfast, lunch & dinner plus A La Carte menu.

AL JAWHARAH Super Night Club: Live entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band with a special buffet every Thursday night.

Kuwait Regency Palace

WE at the Kuwait Regency Palace would like to welcome you to our fantastic poolside barbecue every Wednesday night. Tasty cuisine featuring selection of Continental, Arabic and Oriental dishes - fabulous ambience and long cool fruit juices. Give yourself a treat. Enjoy an evening out with your family and friends.

For your reservations, dial telephone 5728000 extn 6007.

Kuwait Plaza Hotel

NEW menus every day at Al Dallah Coffee Shop with variety of Oriental, Arabic and Continental dishes to suit everybody's taste. Enjoy more than thirty different appetizers, mezzah, main course and dessert. A lavish buffet for KD2.995 only. Breakfast with a selection of more than 25 dishes to choose from and savour. Eat as much as you can with coffee and tea. It is the breakfast you like most for less 995 only.

MARCO POLO: The Italian Restaurant in the heart of the city, features authentic Italian food with our resident Duo Stan and Alice who play your favourite songs and music.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Thurs-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners, improvers, adults mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1 noon and 1-2, Sat 5-6pm. Ladies keep fit Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 n Sun 5.30 - 6.30. Martial arts with black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6. Taekwondo Sat-Mon. 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournament. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coaches everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts - coaching available plus lots more. Phone for further details recreation manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Kuwait Players
Kuwait Players now auditioning for an extremely funny comedy/farce (to be staged in Nov). Auditions at Messilah Beach Hotel Al Foz Room on Saturday Sept 30 from 7.15 pm. Why not give it a whirl? Ring 5625896 for more information.

Children's festival
A children's sports festival will be held on Oct 27 at the University ground, Shuwaikh. All Bangladeshi children are eligible to participate. Each participant will be given a free T-shirt. Willing participants are requested to contact anyone of the following telephones for registration: 4340759, 4710306, 4312989, 4312730, 3716586, 3714353.

Kuwait International
Fit for Life: September brings a variety of sports classes

and activities at the Kuwait International Hotel. Tennis coaching from October. Classes for ladies, juniors and seniors by Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis player. Enrollment on-going. Also fun tennis sessions for the family. Other classes are: Ladies' Keep Fit Classes, Yoga, Judo, Karate and Taekwondo. For details contact: Paul or Vivienne at 2530000 or 2533000.

Ahmedi Kart Racing
NEXT race meeting on Friday, 6th Oct. Racing starts at Ahmedi KOC track at 1.30 pm. Spectators welcome, 500 fils entrance charge.

Aerobics
Aerobics with Chris Hill at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Mixed classes on Sundays and Tuesdays: 6.30 - 7.30 pm. Enquiries: 5624111 ext 751.

Messilah Beach Hotel
A.S.A. Swimming classes for children/adults, beginners/intermediate. For registration and details please contact Messilah Beach Hotel on 5624111 ext. 739 or 751.

WINDSURFING Classic: Messilah Beach Hotel is organising a Windsurfing Classic on Oct 6, 1989. Open to all men and women sailors in Kuwait. Closing for entries is 1.10.89. For more details contact Ken Balman on 5624111 ext 739/751.

TENNIS classes: Messilah Beach Hotel Tennis classes will be resuming beginning of October 89 for adults and children, to reserve a place phone 5624111 ext. 739/751.

BALLET CLASSES: Messilah Beach Hotel ballet classes for girls will be resuming late Sept 89, to reserve a place phone 5624111 ext. 739/751.

YOGA and natural therapies: Yoga and natural therapies classes will be resuming 8th October on Sunday 5pm - 6pm and 11th October on Wednesday 9am - 10am. Five lessons at KD10, to register contact Recreation Office at 5624111 Ext. 751/739.

MESSILAH Beach Hotel
Yoga & Natural Therapies classes will be resuming 8th Oct on Sunday 5pm - 6pm and 11th Oct on Wednesday 9 am - 10 am. Five lessons at KD10, to register contact Recreation Office at 5624111 ext. 751/739.

Dunhill Bridge
THE Dunhill Bridge tournament 1989-90 begins on October 2 at the Messilah Beach Hotel. It will stretch over 17 weeks, time being 7.45pm every Monday. The best 9 scores will be considered and there are lots of prizes to be won.

'I am too old to be a star': Slick

Airplane reunited

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Grace Slick, rock Diva of the 1960s, says she's too old to be a rock star.

"Rock and roll should belong to younger people," says the 49-year-old singer, who after a five-year break has returned to the stage with the reunited Jefferson Airplane. "I don't like looking at old people flapping around."

"There are other women who can perform my songs—without liver spots," she said in an interview prior to the band's first concert in northern California in more than a decade.

She made it clear she feels she should write the songs and leave the performances to younger women.

Her age did not hurt the critics' reception of the concert, however.

"Slick and (co-leader Marty) Balin have never sounded better," the San Francisco Chronicle said after the Airplane's performance in Concord, California. "Slick may be edging up on 50, but she's still a great-looking babe... confident in her talent."

The San Jose Mercury news said: "Playing with an energy and inspiration it had in its '60s heyday, the Jefferson Airplane performed as if it and its fans had never grown up, or older."

Jefferson Airplane had to overcome the bitterness that surrounded the band's dissolution before its reunion. Along with The Grateful Dead, it was in the Vanguard of San Francisco-based groups that provided the soundtrack for the psychedelic '60s, particularly in the Haight Ashbury section of San Francisco which gave birth to the decade's flower children.

"Somebody to Love" and Slick's "White Rabbit" were two of the era's anthems. The latter blamed drug

experimentation by the Flower Children on their parents' reading their fairy tales and "Alice in Wonderland."

"One Pill Makes You Larger, One Pill Makes You Smaller," Slick intoned with the piercing alto that became known as the voice that launched a thousand trips.

In the early 1970s the band changed its name to the Jefferson Starship and turned to pop, churning out a number of hits.

Singer Marty Balin and guitarist Jack Casady and Jorma Kaukonen departed in the late 1970s.

Band leader Paul Kantner, unhappy that the band was not performing more socially relevant work, left in 1984.

Slick and Kantner, who had lived together and produced a child, did not speak to each other for several years.

The seeds for a Jefferson Airplane reunion were planted in early 1989 during a concert by Kantner, Kaukonen and Casady at the Fillmore auditorium, which in the 1960s had helped launch the careers of the Airplane, the Dead, Santana and Janis Joplin.

At Casady's instigation, Slick sneaked onto the stage while Kantner was playing.

"I figured this will be good: I'll walk on there and he can do anything he wants because I'm more comfortable on stage," said Slick. "But he did like it. He was generous and warm and seemed to be more amenable than in the past to things he doesn't like."

Slick's concerns have evolved from searching for the perfect hallucinogenic high to fighting for the environment.

She now uses her haunting, clear voice in numbers such as "panda," which pleads for the lives of the fewer than 1,000 pandas still in existence.

Jaclyn Smith in TV drama

Jaclyn Smith stars in "Settle The Score," a two-hour NBC-TV drama, playing a Chicago policewoman who returns after 20 years to her home town to avenge a sex crime.

Co-starring with Smith are Howard Duff, Richard Masur and Louise Latham. "Settle The Score" is scheduled for broadcast Oct. 30.

Smith's policewoman goes back to her small Arkansas home town to find the man who raped her when she was a teenager and learns that the rapist has continued his sex crimes.

Margolis directs

Oscar: Jeff Margolis has been signed by the ABC-TV network to direct the five telecast of the 62nd annual Academy Awards ceremonies scheduled for broadcast next March 26.

Producer Gilbert Cates announced it would be the second time Margolis has worked on the Oscars.

Margolis' credits include such other television specials as "Happy Birthday, Hollywood," seven "American Music Awards," two Emmy awards programmes and "Julie Andrews and Carol Burnett: Together Again."

USA programmes

In November, USA network will introduce three new world premiere movies to its lineup, featuring among others Chuck Connors, Robert Mitchum and Gil Gerard.

Connors and Anthony Geary will be seen in "High Desert Kill," a thriller about four hunters in the New Mexico badlands threatened by a scientist performing a behavioural study on them in an outdoor cage.

Mitchum will team with his son Jim in "Jake Spanner, Private Eye," with a supporting cast including Ernest Borgnine, Stella Stevens, Dick Van Patten and Edie Adams. Gerard plays a private eye in "Final Notice," a detective searching for a psychopathic murderer.

New Series

Dick Clark Productions will turn out a new weekly primetime TV series titled "Judy Blume's Just As Long As We're Together," based on Blum's best-selling book.

Blume and Nellie Nugent will serve as co-executive producers of the series scheduled to make its debut in the fall of 1990.

Blume established her reputation by writing novels for children and young adults. The titles include "Are You There God?" and "Margaret and Superfudge."

Prince-commoner match to herald imperial openness

Chrysanthemum curtain perforating

TOKYO, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Japan greeted the news that Prince Aya, the second son of Emperor Akihito, is to wed a commoner as yet another sign that the imperial family is finally emerging from behind its "chrysanthemum curtain" of secrecy.

This is only the second time that a male member of Japan's centuries-old imperial family has sought and won the hand of woman from a non-aristocratic background.

Aya, 23, who was known as a mischievous youngster, surprised the nation with this engagement to Kiko Kawashima, a 22-year-old former fellow student at Tokyo's Gaku-shuin University and the daughter of an economics professor.

Scandals

The news followed months of political and sex scandals in Japan after the death of Emperor Hirohito in January.

Most people had expected Crown Prince Hiro, Aya's 20-year-old brother, to tie the knot first.

The parents of Aya's attractive fiancée, dubbed "Kiko-San" by the media, do not even belong to Japan's wealthy merchant class as did the family of Empress Michiko, like most Tokyosites, they live in a small apartment.

What sets Kawashima apart is her international experience she lived in the United States and Austria with her parents as a child and speaks fluent English and German.

Main force

A post-graduate student in psychology, she is also learning Chinese and Thai after a trip around southeast Asia with university colleagues three years ago.

Empress Michiko, local weeklies say, was the main force in convincing the emperor and Kawashima's parents to give their blessing to the young couple after initial objections that almost led to Aya's decision to abandon his imperial status.

Not only did they worry that the pair would face problems owing to their different backgrounds, but they feared that the expected dowry would be too much of a burden for her modestly endowed academic family, they said.



Aya and Kawashima speak to reporters during a press conference at Akasaka palace. (Reuters wirephoto)

derella figure plucked from obscurity by then Prince Akihito, was later idolised as the ideal mother when they broke tradition by bringing up their three children at home rather than sending them off to private tutors.

Many Japanese remain disappointed about how tightly closed the "Chrysanthemum curtain" remained, shutting off from public view the private lives of the nation's first family. They also watched with sadness

ness as Michiko, once a cheerful spirit, grew gaunt and sombre amidst speculation about discriminatory treatment by officials of the tradition-bound and secretive Imperial Household Agency.

Honeymoon

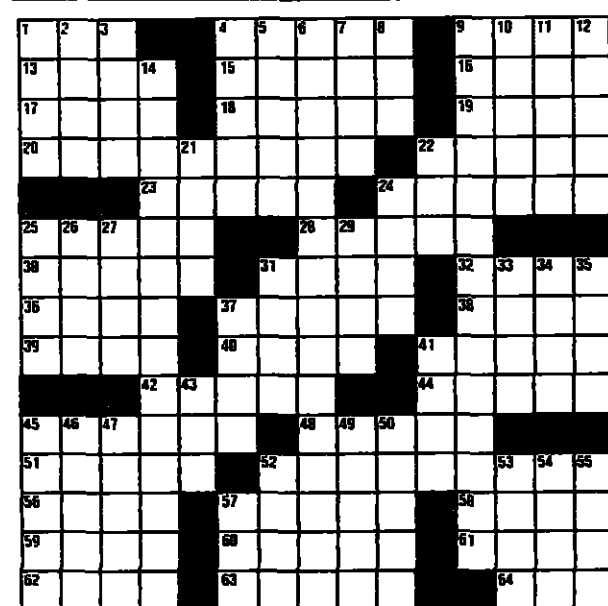
Last year, millions of Japanese visited the palace in central Tokyo where Emperor Hirohito lay on his death bed for more than four months. Yet they had

to wait for his demise to be told that he had been suffering from cancer.

The wedding of Aya and Kawashima is expected to take place after the one-year mourning period for Emperor Hirohito ends on Jan. 7.

They are expected to honeymoon in Thailand, where Aya, a student of zoology like his grandfather, has conducted research into a type of catfish that lives in the Mekong river.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Sternward
 - 4 Jump aboard!
 - 9 Stull
 - 13 1958 horror movie, with The
 - 15 Ryan or Papas
 - 16 Knight of the road
 - 17 Singer Cantrell
 - 18 Evaluated
 - 19 Bellow
 - 20 helicopter informally
 - 22 Panorama
 - 23 Playwright Rice
 - 24 Pale hue
 - 25 Violent effort
 - 28 Bond or Smiley
 - 30 Odour
 - 31 Granny, e.g.
 - 32 Crib cry
 - 36 Sunday closing
 - 37 Meeting place
 - 38 Kabuki noble
 - 39 Sail support
 - 40 Choir member
 - 41 Sacred song
 - 42 Talk show emcee Winfrey
 - 44 Longings
 - 45 Checked
 - 48 Actress
 - 51 Atlas burden
 - 52 Breakfast treat
 - 56 Santa
 - 57 Offshore hazard
 - 58 Tony's cousin
 - 59 Discomfort
 - 60 Puzzle out
 - 61 Tibetan religious
 - 62 Cold weather transport
 - 63 Check the dictionary
 - 64 Ship-shaped clock
 - DOWN
 - 1 Competent

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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ROE LEERS ARIAS
INBRED SCALENE
LEVIS OPTS
PROLOGUE SIEETOD
OIOO REDIHERRING
STDS EDITIS VEER
HOISE EIES EIR.SIE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠A7 ♥QJ762 ♦AK1032 ♣A
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♣
4 ♥ 4 ♣ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—At rubber bridge, it's probably right to take your sure profit by doubling four spades. At duplicate, you have a real headache—your penalty might not compensate for the game. We would bid, and our choice would be a natural five diamonds, to give partner a choice of contracts.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠73 ♥1042 ♦AKJ4 ♣AJ102
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—There is no perfect solution. If you rebid one no trump, you describe the shape of your hand but lie about having a heart stopper; if you choose two clubs, partner will expect at least nine cards in the minors. We prefer the former, since it tells partner all the salient features of your hand in one fell swoop.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠73 ♥1042 ♦AKJ4 ♣AJ108
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Because of your no trump rebid, partner's two hearts is not forcing. Since you have already advised partner of the shape and strength of your hand, your duty now is to elect your preference between his suits. Your hearts are clearly better, so pass.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:
♠K107 ♥K98 ♦J652 ♣J53
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—Avoid raising partner's minor with weak four-card support if you can find any alternative. Here, your hand is no trump in shape and you have an honor in every suit. A response of one no trump describes your hand to a tee.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:
♠K107 ♥K98 ♦J652 ♣J53
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—You are on the borderline between a pass and a raise to three no trump. Although we like to be rather conservative at this vulnerability, our support for partner's diamond suit tilts us in favor of three no trump. You have a probable source of tricks in diamonds.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:
♠A9852 ♥Void ♦J10753 ♣852
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Dbl ?

What do you bid now?

A.—From your point of view, you can't be sure your side can beat six hearts! Your spade length detracts from partner's defensive capabilities, but makes your hand attractive for offense. Jump to four spades to make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to get into the auction.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
Something you had thought lost will turn up where you least expected it. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 37. You should not spend only in the hope of a windfall. Show others that you care for them too. Be tactful.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
Do not try to do more than one thing at a time and avoid wasting time. Do not allow your emotions to overcome the dictates of reason. Avoid becoming involved in what does not concern you. Be a little more patient.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)**
You should pay more attention to what others are saying. Also, take their likes and dislikes duly into account. You should take good care of your expenditure, small no less than large. Be magnanimous.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
A little more exercise will do you good, but put the emphasis on regularity rather than on strenuousness. You have good reason to be optimistic but none to be complacent. Do not be quite so fond of the sound of your own voice, listen to others too. Be considerate.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You are all too liable to give up too soon and should fight the tendency. Make sure you are not late for an appointment. And also be sure to keep a promise. Be honest.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
You will be in a better position to face up to the situation you are in. Something you had feared might not happen. An offer or proposal should be considered really seriously. Be adaptable.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
There will be no time to do all you would wish to concentrate on essentials. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. You will have to take action to avoid getting into bad habits. Be forgiving.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**
A frank talk will help you to clear the atmosphere and restore harmony. You should avoid jumping to conclusions. A tendency to see things with blinkered eyes should also be resisted. Be frugal.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
A bit of time spent clearing up will prove well worthwhile. You will be rather excitable. Calm down, there is no need to get excited. Better more slowly and surely than faster and slapdash. Be reliable.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
You should try to use a little more commonsense. Also do not attempt to use force where persuasion has failed. And you must keep your wits very much about you. Be cordial.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
You will have plenty of energy but must avoid dissipating it. Do not allow yourself to be taken in by surface appearances. Do not wait for others to make the first move either. Be respectful.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
To keep your finances under control you must continue to exercise discretion where spending too is concerned. You should allow yourself sufficient time and ample thought where your personal affairs are concerned. Take good care of your health. Be sensible.

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Agassi tames Witsken for quarterfinals

ORLANDO, Fla., Oct. 6, (Reuters): Andre Agassi, still searching for his first title of 1989, yesterday reached the quarterfinals of the 415,000 Orlando Tennis Classic with a straight-set victory over fellow American Todd Witsken.

Agassi, seeded second behind fifth-ranked Brad Gilbert, started slowly but gained momentum as he turned back Witsken 7-5 6-3.

In another second round match, third seed

Emilio Sanchez of Spain struggled to overcome a tenacious challenge by American John Ross 6-6 2-7 6-6. Sanchez, who was frustrated by Ross's stall tactics, prevailed by taking the third set tiebreak 7-2.

In today's quarterfinals, the Spaniard was to face fifth seed Jaime Yanga of Peru, a 6-4 7-6 winner over Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden.

Agassi, who won six titles in 1988, next faces American David Wheaton, who defeated the seventh-ranked teen idol earlier this year at Stratton Mountain. The other quarterfinals pit Gilbert against unseeded American Jimmy Arias and Miguel Nido of Puerto Rico against American Jimmy Brown in a battle of unseeded players.

"He surprised me with the way he played."

Agassi said of the 47th-ranked Witsken. "I thought he'd serve and volley and chip-and-charge, but instead he came out and slow-balled me."

Witsken said he was trying to slow the pace against the hard-hitting Agassi.

"He wore me down out of that game plan and I didn't have an answer," Witsken said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Full squad: Injuries have left Luxembourg coach Paul Philipp unable to name a full squad for the World Cup qualifying soccer tie against Portugal in six days time. "It is impossible," Philipp said when asked whether he could list 16 players for the European Group Seven tie to be played in Saarbrücken, West Germany, next Wednesday.

Players injured: Marseille striker Jean-Pierre Papin and defender Manuel Amoros are both doubtful for next Wednesday's European Group Five World Cup match against Scotland in Paris, because of injuries their club said on Thursday.

Vanenburg hurt: Dutch international midfielder Gerald Vanenburg will miss next Wednesday's World Cup qualifying tie against Wales and could be out of action for several weeks after suffering a knee injury in training on Thursday.

Van Basten back: European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten lashed a first-half hat-trick on his first appearance since a cartilage operation last month as AC Milan crushed Third Division Pro Patria 6-0 in a friendly match on Thursday.

Gullit to return: Dutch international Ruud Gullit may resume training next week after a four-month absence through injury, which will further boost European champions AC Milan following the return of compatriot Marco van Basten after surgery.

Hungary unchanged: Hungary show only minor adjustments to their squad for next Wednesday's home World Cup soccer qualifier against Spain.

Senior Skins: Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino have wasted no time in making their debut on the Senior Golf Tour after turning 50 by agreeing to play in the Senior Skins Game in January, the organisers announced on Thursday.

Texas Open: Lanny Wadkins, Mark Wiebe and Tom Sietmann each shot eight-under-par 62 to equal the course record and earn a share of the first round lead at the \$600,000 Texas Open golf tournament on Thursday.

Golfers warned: European Tour golfers were warned on Thursday that they will not be allowed to compete in Sweden next year if they play on the South African golf circuit.

Top players: Forty-eight of the top 50 men's tennis players have signed up to play on the New Association of Tennis Professionals tour which begins next year, the ATP announced on Wednesday.

Becker injured: Wimbledon and US Open champion Boris Becker has pulled out of the current Stuttgart Classic Invitation tennis event and a Grand Prix tournament in Sydney next week because of an injured left knee.

W. Indies win: Young West Indies beat Zimbabwe B by an innings and 72 runs on the third and final day of their cricket match yesterday. Scores: Zimbabwe B 143 and 134 (Lyndon Joseph six for 26). Young West Indies 349 for nine declared (Jimmy Adams 137 not out).

Fenech returning: Former triple world boxing champion Jeff Fenech is to come out of retirement to fight Mexico's Mario Martinez in an elimination bout for the World Boxing Council's super featherweight title in Melbourne on November 24.

Title fight: Mexican Gilberto Roman defends his World Boxing Council super-flyweight championship against Ghana's Yaw Konadu in Mexico City on November 7. Konadu's handlers announced on Thursday.

Yearling sales: Dubai Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum paid \$600,000 guineas (\$1 million) at the Newmarket yearling sales on Wednesday for a filly of Dancing Brave, the champion three-year-old of 1986.

Biggest scrummage: More than 2,000 young rugby union players formed the world's largest scrummage on Wednesday. The 2,050 French rugby players, aged between 8 and 14, packed down before an exhibition match between France and the Home Unions at the Parc des Princes stadium here.

IBF champion: Three-time International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior bantamweight champion Ely Pical of Indonesia will meet No. 1-ranked contender Juan Polo of Colombia at the Valley Sports Arena on Oct. 14.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League games played on Thursday:

New Jersey	6	Philadelphia	2
Montreal	4	Hartford	1
Boston	5	Pittsburgh	4
Buffalo	4	Quebec	3
Minnesota	6	New York	5
St. Louis	8	Chicago	3
Calgary	10	Detroit	7
Edmonton	4	Vancouver	1
Los Angeles	4	Toronto	2

W. Germans crash out despite Graf's effort

US cruise through to semifinals



Graf couldn't save her team

Tokyo, Oct. 6, (Reuters): A valiant solo effort by world number one Steffi Graf today failed to stall Czechoslovakia in their defence of the Federation Cup women's team tennis championship.

The third-seeded Czechoslovaks beat fifth seeds West Germany 2-1 in the quarterfinals to earn a semifinal showdown with the top-ranked United States, who romped to a merciless 3-0 triumph over Austria.

Tomorrow's other semifinal, unseeded Australia meet second-seeded Spain.

Jana Novotna drew first blood for Czechoslovakia with a convincing 6-3 6-3 win over Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

But Graf obliterated Helena Sukova 6-2 6-1 in just 38 minutes to put the sides on level terms going into the doubles.

Her efforts were in vain. Sukova and Novotna, the world's top women's doubles pairing, rolled over the German duo like a well-oiled machine 2-6-2.

"Everywhere we were hitting they had hands," said Kohde-Kilsch, who looked ponderous and often half-hearted during the

50-minute match.

Graf blamed the Germans' humiliation partly on the fact they had not played together since last year's Seoul Olympics. "There was maybe a little missing with us," she said. "In the doubles things are much more difficult ... it depends also on your partner."

But it was Graf who let the side down first in the doubles, winning just one point on her opening serve in the second game of the match.

Novotna and Sukova, who practise and play together regularly, then got the better of some fast volley exchanges at the net to break the Germans again in the seventh game.

The second set looked academic as the Czechoslovaks exploited almost every gap in West Germany's defence and blasted winners as soon as Graf or Kohde-Kilsch strayed out of position.

Czechoslovakia have won the Federation Cup five times but they can expect a rough ride against the United States who are seeking a record 13th victory.

Chris Evert, in fine form on her last appearance for the United States, made no mistake about her 6-1 6-0 victory over Austria's Judith Wiesner.

It was only the fourth game Evert had dropped in her three matches.

US number one Martina Navratilova stretched their lead to an unbeatable 2-0 with a 6-4 6-1 triumph over Barbara Paulus, then teamed up with Pam Shriver to demolish their doubles rivals 6-1 6-2 in 44 minutes.

While Evert played near-flawless baseline tennis, Navratilova's serve-and-volley game looked more fragile and she hit only one ace.

Rain again interrupted action on the outdoor courts near Tokyo Bay and weather forecasters predicted a typhoon could hit Japan over the weekend.

The top seeds were taking nothing for granted about their match against Czechoslovakia. "Tomorrow will be the kind of day when we could win all three matches or we could lose all three," said Evert. "It is going to be that close."

Sweden rely on midfield

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Manager Olle Nordin is confident his new generation of midfielders will keep Sweden on track for their first World Cup soccer finals since 1978 by beating Albania on Sunday.

"Let's not be hypocritical. Albania at home is a tie we must win, should win, and will win," Nordin said.

Victory would leave the Swedes with eight points in European Group Two, one short of the nine needed to be absolutely sure of either winning the group or finishing as one of the best two second-placed teams from Groups One, Two and Four who also qualify.

Sweden hope to gain that point in their final clash, away in Poland later this month.

England lead the group on eight points with one remaining encounter, against Poland. The Poles with two points, and Albania with none, are out of the running.

Nordin has gradually reshaped the Swedish midfield this year. Out have gone veterans Robert Prytz and Glenn Stromberg, the national side's playmakers for most of this decade. In have come Jonas Thern, 22, of Portugal's Benfica, and Klas Ingesson 21.

Prytz of Italy's Verona fell from grace after Sweden's humbling 6-0 defeat to Denmark in a friendly this summer.

Stromberg of Atlanta, who came on as a substitute in last month's goalless draw against

England, has been dropped altogether for the Albania game.

"Glenn did little to enhance our play against England. He is not important for our midfield right now," Nordin explained.

Homegrown talent Joakim Nilsson and Leif Engqvist of Malmö, the side which eliminated Italy's Internazionale in the European Cup last week, completed the young Swedish midfield line against England and are likely to do so again.

Sweden, runners-up after Brazil in the 1958 World Cup, yearn for a place in a major soccer event.

After making it to all three World Cup finals in the 1970s, the Swedes stumbled on the finish line in the run-up to the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, and the 1984 and 1988 European Championships.

The Albanians play disciplined and technically proficient soccer. But their limited overall ability should prevent them from dashing Swedish hopes this time.

Their efforts will be further hampered on Sunday by the absence through injury of striker Shehu Minga, one of Albania's top league scorers last season.

Team manager Shygyriu Rreli has called up informant Sokol Kushta of Flamurtari in his place for his international debut.

Nordin's only worry is his strikers who have produced only one of Sweden's goals this season.

Lim takes top place

C.K. Lim played a brilliant round of eight under par golf to win the September Cup on Friday at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club.

Lim's 12 round included two birdies on the par 3 eighth and par-5 twelfth, twelve pars and four bogies.

With this performance Lim clinched Division "A" (0-12) medal from S.W. Choi (10) who carded 66 and Geoff (7) who carded 68.

Division "B" (13-20) was a tight race with head master cum TV reporter Derek Hicks (17) carding 72 and just edging H.S. Lee (13) with 73 and K.S. Lamba (16) with 74.

In Division "C" (21-over) H.R. Chang (24) carded 69, way ahead of H.S. Nam (22) and Yuhia Bakir (24) who both had 76.

Geoff Dean carded 75 to record the best gross of the day on a count back from C.K. Lim, also with 75.

In side competition, Hilal Saleh outdrew H.S. Shin by one inch to win the longest drive of the day for men, while S. Sawires produced the longest drive for the ladies.

UEFA slaps ban on Ajax

ZURICH, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam were banned from European competition for two seasons yesterday after missile-throwing fans forced the abandonment of their UEFA Cup home tie against Austria Vienna last week.

The Austria side were awarded a 3-0 win in the abandoned tie and given a place in the second round by the European Football Union (UEFA) control and disciplinary committee.

UEFA spokesman Rudolph Rothenbuch added that the grounds for the committee's decision would be given to the two clubs today.

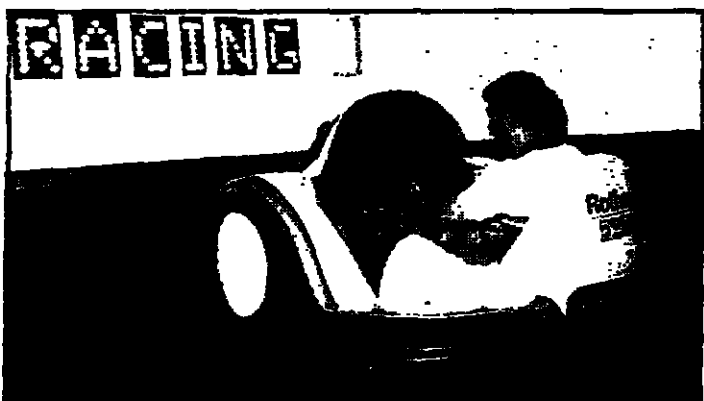
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The Rothmans simulator

Rothmans gifts. Winners will then compete for three prizes on the final day.

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Third prize: A personal computer

Home Unions spoil French celebrations

PARIS, Sept. 6, (Reuters): The British Home Unions spoiled French celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the revolution with a 29-27 victory on Wednesday to hand France their first defeat at the Parc des Princes in seven years.

Only a strong comeback by France in the second half prevented an embarrassingly big loss to a British XV which was well under the strength of the Lions party which defeated Australia in July.

Two tries from Scottish full back Gavin Hastings and another from captain and fly-half Rob Andrew were a relatively scant reward for the visitor's dominance.

With four penalties and a conversion, Hastings accounted for 22 of his team's points.

The French, who trailed 16-9 at the interval and 23-9 10 minutes into the second half, mustered few attacks but scored three tries through full-back Serge Blanco, his 30th for his country, 21-year-old debutant Philippe Benetton and fly half Didier Camberabero.

France got off to a disastrous start when Andrew, taking a pass from centre Jeremy Guscott, scored the opening try after little more than a minute of play. Hastings converted and added two more penalties to give the Home Unions a 12-0 lead after only 20 minutes against a totally disorganised French XV.

But late in the first period, the French started to combine and Blanco profited from the first spell of sustained pressure, taking a pass from Benetton before selling a dummy to Scott Hastings to score his team's first try in the 37th minute.

The Home Unions were dominating the inexperienced French forwards in the scrums, rucks and mauls.



France's Bernard Lacombe (right) shoves an unidentified British player. (Reuters wirephoto)

The experimental French pack, containing seven players with only nine previous caps between them, looked ragged and

disjointed throughout. Hastings powered his way through on the right touchline for another try in the 45th minute and added his second only six



Secretariat destroyed

Ron Turcotte astride Secretariat after winning the Triple Crown. Secretariat was destroyed on Wednesday at his Blue Grass Stud Farm, in Baltimore to end his pain from an incurable hoof disease. Secretariat was the first horse to win the Triple Crown in 25 years and was regarded as America's premier racing star of the past few decades. (Reuters filephoto)

Subba Row to quit TCCB England's cricketers allowed to enter India

NEW DELHI, Oct. 6, (Reuters): England's cricketers are to be allowed to enter India for the forthcoming Nehru Cup following assurances from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) on their behalf over South Africa, an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said yesterday.



Graham Gooch

The squad is captained by Graham Gooch, who was due to lead England on their ill-fated 1988-89 tour of India. The trip was called off after the Indian government said it would refuse to issue visas to Gooch and seven other players with South African links.

The spokesman said the decision was taken in the light of the International Cricket Conference (ICC) resolution in January when it was decided to impose a test ban of up to five years on players who had contact with South Africa after last April 1 but granted an amnesty to cricketers previously having links with the white-ruled public.

"The TCCB has given us assurances that all members of the team subscribe to this resolution in letter and spirit," the spokesman said.

England are one of six Test-playing countries taking part in the limited overs tournament from October 15 to November 1, part of celebrations to mark the birth centenary of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Meanwhile, Raman Subba Row, chairman of the (TCCB) since 1985 announced on Wednesday he is to step down next year after a 'demanding' period marked by the vexed South African issue.

The former England batsman has held the county club chairman and the TCCB executive

committee he will not be available for office after October 1, 1990, believing a five-year term as chairman is the maximum anybody should serve.

Subba Row said: "It has been an extremely busy period, far more demanding than could be envisaged when I became chairman because of the real threat of disintegration within world cricket over the hitherto insoluble South African issue."

"The first necessity was for England to play a constructive role in safeguarding the future of the game, both domestically and internationally. This was finally ensured when the ICC resolution on sporting contact with South Africa was accepted by all countries last January."

"Naturally, no one can ever be wholly satisfied with a compromise, and there were elements in the agreement we were not entirely happy about, especially the banning of players from international cricket who went to South Africa to coach, but it had to be accepted to prevent our country cricket as we know it being threatened."

Former England captain dies

LONDON, Oct. 6, (Reuters): Former Yorkshire and England cricket captain Norman Yardley, who also made his mark as a squash and hockey player, has died in hospital at the age of 74, it was announced on Wednesday.

Yardley won a Blue at cricket in each of his four years at Cambridge University, where he also gained Blues for hockey and squash. He was six times north north of England squash champion.

Yardley's first-class cricket career started in 1936, and he captained Yorkshire from 1948 until his retirement in 1955, as well as leading England in 14 of his 20 Tests.

All-rounder Yardley was the first England cricketer to score 50 in each innings of a Test and take five wickets in the same match, achieving the feat against Australia in Melbourne in the 1946-47 series.

Yardley was a Test selector in addition to being on the Yorkshire committee and was his county's president from 1981 to 1984.

Longo breaks record

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 6, (AP): French cycling champion Jean-Luc Longo broke her own world record in the high altitude three-kilometre trial yesterday, whizzing around the velodrome in 3:38.190.

The time beat the record she set last week by 3 and 1/2 seconds at 3:41.640.

Longo, 30, broke five cycling records here last week, in the 3-kilometre, 5-kilometre, 10-kilometre, 20-kilometre and one-hour trials.

She had initially said on Sunday she would not be trying to break any more records during her stay here, but she decided to try to set new records again this week because bad weather last week hampered her training.

Like many cyclists, Longo came to Mexico City because of its Olympic-class velodrome and its high altitude of 7,400 feet (2,255 metres), which reduces air resistance.



Longo in action during her successful record attempt. (Reuters wirephoto)

مكتبة الوطن

Athletics take 2-0 lead in playoffs

Cubs crush Giants

CHICAGO, Oct 6, (Reuters): The Chicago Cubs exploded for six first inning runs to avenge their game one drubbing with a 9-5 victory over the San Francisco Giants that levelled the best-of-seven National League championship series.

The Cubs, 11-3 losers in the series opener, turned the tables on the powerful Giants with an

awesome display of firepower before the home town fans at Wrigley Field.

Chicago, paced by Jerome Walton's two first-inning hits and Mark Grace's three hits and four runs batted in, sent 12 batters to the plate in the first inning to chase San Francisco starting pitcher Rick Reuschel out of the game.

The series now moves to San Francisco for the next three games tomorrow, Sunday and Monday.

Reuschel, a former Cub and the game's losing pitcher, was driven from the game after throwing just 18 pitches. He allowed five hits and was charged with five earned runs.

Walton led off for the Cubs with a single and scored on Ryne Sandberg's triple into the right field corner. One out later, Grace doubled to score Sandberg.

After Andre Dawson struck out, Luis Salazar singled to left field, scoring Grace for a 3-0 lead. When Shawon Dunston followed with another single, Giants manager Roger Craig removed Reuschel in favour of Kelly Downs, who walked Joe Girardi to load the bases.

Cubs starting pitcher Mike Bielecki then drilled a single to centre field that brought home Salazar and Dunston and Walton, with his second hit of the inning, singled home Girardi to give the home team a 6-0 lead.

All five of the Giants' run came on home runs, the first a two-run shot by Kevin Mitchell in the fourth inning that drove Bielecki from the game.

By the time the Giants came up with a pair of late homers — a two-run blast by Matt Williams in the eighth and a solo home run by Robby Thompson in the ninth — the Cubs had added three insurance runs in the sixth inning when Grace doubled into the right-field corner with the bases

loaded to effectively put the game out of reach.

The win went to the Cubs third pitcher Les Lancaster, who pitched the final four innings after replacing Paul.

Meanwhile, Jose Canseco could not start Wednesday because of a bad headache. No matter, Rickey Henderson gave Toronto one all day.

Henderson sparked a two-run fourth inning rally with two stolen bases, and the Oakland Athletics beat the Blue Jays 6-3 in game 2 of the best-of-7 American League playoffs for a 2-0 lead.

Only two of 11 teams have rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win the AL playoffs — Milwaukee in 1982 and Kansas City over Toronto in 1985.

The A's have won six straight playoff games, while the Blue Jays have dropped five in a row.

Once again, the A's put together a combination of power, pitching and speed to beat the Blue Jays.

Starter Mike Moore allowed three hits in seven innings. Mark McGwire had three hits and Dave Parker hit his first home run in 25 post-season games spanning 93 at-bats.

Henderson had two singles and two walks, and has been on base seven times in nine plate appearances. He has six steals in the series, breaking the playoff record of five previously held by Davey Lopes (1981) and Steve Sax (1988), both with Los Angeles.



Matt Williams of Giants (on the ground), reaches 2nd base safely. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yale University honours Giamatti

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Oct 6, (AP): A. Bartlett Giamatti, the late baseball commissioner, was to be memorialized today at a special service at Yale University, where he was a former president.

Yale President Benno C. Schmidt Jr who succeeded Giamatti in 1986, Giamatti's two sons, Paul and Marcus, and a number of other Yale officials and professors were to speak during the service at Woolsey Hall.

Giamatti, who was 51, died Sept 1 after suffering a heart attack at his weekend retreat on Martha's Vin-

eyard in Massachusetts. He was buried Sept 6 at the Grove Street cemetery following private graveside services.

Giamatti served as Yale's 19th president from 1978 to 1986. He was named National League president after his resignation from Yale, and on April 1 became baseball commissioner.

Many baseball officials are attending League playoffs, and the sport is to pay its respects to Giamatti on Oct 31 at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Johnson backs stiff penalties

WASHINGTON, Oct 6, (Reuters): Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson yesterday backed a proposed US law to stiffen penalties for use of anabolic steroids but said the sanctions would not have deterred him from taking the body building drugs.

Johnson was at the centre of a doping scandal after he failed a drug test following his victory in the Olympic 100 metres final in Seoul last year. He was stripped of his gold medal and world record after the anabolic steroid stanozolol was detected in his urine sample.

At a news conference with congressman Mel Levine and other sponsors of the new legislation, Johnson supported the bill to put steroids in the same category as cocaine and other illicit drugs. Penalties could range up to 20 years imprisonment, Levine said.

Steroids, however, could be prescribed for legitimate medical reasons. Johnson, 27, said he started taking the banned performance-enhancing drugs in 1981 at age 19 so he could compete with other world class athletes, who, he charged, "were taking drugs". He did not name them.

"I'm not afraid to come forward to say what was going on," he said. "I got caught in Seoul. I lost my gold medal. I'm here to tell the people of this country it is wrong to cheat. (Do) not take it... it's bad for your health," he said, adding he suffered some liver damage.

However, Johnson admitted that he still would have taken the drugs had the penalties being proposed yesterday been in effect. "No, it would not" (have made any difference), he said.

Italy denies deaths caused by undue haste

ROME, Oct 6, (Reuters): Italy's sports and tourism minister has rejected suggestions that the deaths of six workers on World Cup building sites were caused by undue haste in preparations for Italy's hosting of the 1990 soccer tournament.

"One can't say these deaths were the result of haste. The truth is that accidents connected to the World Cup are simply the tip of the iceberg of accidents at work," minister Franco Carraro said in an interview with the Italian Communist Party daily L'Unita.

An advance text of the interview to be published today was released yesterday.

Five workers were killed at the Palermo soccer stadium in August during modernisation work for next summer's soccer competition. A sixth man died in Turin last month while digging a trench on a stadium car park site.

Twelve Italian cities will host World Cup matches and in addition to building work on stadiums, hundreds of projects to improve roads, tele and communication links and build new hotels are under way.

French soccer

Paris, Oct 6, (Reuters): French First Division soccer results on Wednesday:

Bordeaux	1	Mulhouse	0
Caen	2	Lyon	1
Monaco	0	Nantes	0
Sochaux	3	Montpellier	1
Brest	1	Auxerre	1
Le Havre	1	Marseille	0
Caen	2	Paris St.G	0
St Etienne	0	Toulouse	3

Chelsea eliminated from League Cup

LONDON, Oct 6, (Reuters): Chelsea, second in the English First Division, threw away a two-goal lead and conceded three in eight minutes as they lost 3-2 at Fourth Division Scarborough to crash out of the League Cup on Wednesday.

The Londoners, held 1-1 at home in the first leg of the first round tie, were stunned as Tommy Graham, Paul Robinson and Martin Russell, with a hotly disputed penalty, turned the match around between the 68th and 76th minutes.

Chelsea had run up a comfortable advantage through Steve Clarke after 53 minutes and Kevin Wilson seven minutes later but then surrendered 4-3 on aggregate.

Chelsea's London neighbours, the expensively assembled Tottenham, lost 3-2 at Fourth Division Southend but scraped through on the away goals rule after winning the home leg 1-0. Both sides were reduced to 10 men, Tottenham after 49 minutes when Paul Stewart was sent off for a foul on Paul Roberts and Southend when Roy McDonough was shown the red card in extra time for a late tackle on David Howells. Goals by Paul Allen and Spaniard Nayim saw Spurs through.

Defender Steve Staunton, a second half substitute for striker Ian Rush, provided the unlikely answer to Liverpool's scoring problems against Wigan Athletic by notching a hat-trick at Anfield.

Meanwhile Sheffield United will try to retain its undefeated League record and its position atop the English Soccer League's Second Division when it travels tomorrow to an explosive Wolves team lead by English international striker Steve Bull.

The focus is on the Second Division this weekend because the English First Division and the Scottish Premier Division have the weekend off to allow the English and Scottish teams to prepare for World Cup qualifiers.

Results

English Football League Cup second round, second leg

Bradford	3	West Brom	5
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(Aggregate 6-6 after extra time. West Brom won on away goals rule)

Coventry	3	Grimsbury	0 (agg: 4-3)
Derby	3	Cambridge	0 (agg: 6-2)
Hereford	0	Charlton	1 (agg: 1-4)
Leicester	1	Crystal P	2

(Aggregate 3-3 after extra time. Palace won on away goals rule)

Manchester C	4	Brentford	1 (agg: 5-3)
Newcastle	4	Reading	0 (agg: 5-3)
Scarb	3	Chelsea	2 (agg: 4-3)
Southend	3	Tottenham	2

(Aggregate 3-3 after extra time. Spurs won on away goals)

West Ham	1	Birmingham	1 (agg: 3-2)
Wigan	0	Liverpool	3

(Played at Liverpool, Liverpool won 8-2 on aggregate)

Wimbledon	3	Port Vale	0 (agg: 5-1)
Wolves	1	Aston Villa	1 (agg: 2-3)

Draw

Draw for the third round of the English League Soccer Cup made on Wednesday:

Tranmere v Millwall, Everton v Luton, Aston Villa v West Ham, Middlesbrough v Wimbledon, Sunderland v Bournemouth, Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest, Manchester United v Tottenham, Newcastle v West Bromwich, Southampton v Charlton, Manchester City v Norwich, Derby v Sheffield Wednesday, Exeter v Blackpool, Arsenal v Liverpool, Swindon v Bolton, Queen's Park Rangers v Coventry, Oldham v Scarborough.

Ties to be played week commencing October 23.

W. Germany rout Finland

DORTMUND, West Germany, Oct 6, (Reuters): West Germany, beaten finalists in the last two World Cups, scored five second half goals to trounce Finland 6-1 in a European Group Four qualifying match on Wednesday.

Two goals by Andreas Moeller in the 17th and 80th minutes and spectacular efforts by Pierre Littbarski, Juergen Klinsmann and Rudi Voeller set the Germans on the way to victory.

Lothar Matthaeus added an 85th minute penalty after hard-working striker Mika Lipponen had scored a consolation goal for the visitors 10 minutes earlier.

The victory gave Franz Beckenbauer's young side a one point lead over European champions the Netherlands in the group with one game to play against Wales in Cologne next month.

The Dutch, who visit Wales next week and receive Finland in their last qualifier on November 15, have a game in hand and could still clinch the one definite qualifying place as group winners.

The West Germans, by boosting their goal difference to 11-2, have greatly increased their chances of reaching next year's finals in Italy at least as one of the two best runners-up from the three qualifying groups comprising four teams.

But the celebrations of the



Voeller (right): player of the night

40,000 crowd packed into Dortmund's Westfalen Stadium could not start until the second half after the West Germans struggled early on to break down the solid Finnish defence.

Despite the large scoreline, Beckenbauer's young team needs to mature if they are to pose a real threat in Italy next June.

Faced with the pressure of having to score goals in the first half, the German midfield and attack lacked variety and were slow and hesitant.

It was not until Littbarski fired in a low shot from outside the

area one minute after halftime that they quickened their game.

Six minutes later Inter Milan striker Klinsmann rose to glance in a delicate header before Rudi Voeller, West Germany's outstanding player of the night, lobbed a dainty chip to score in the 62nd minute.

Asked if the Finnish result had virtually sealed qualification, Beckenbauer said: "We have made one of two steps to Italy. The match against Wales next month will be very difficult. But if we can begin with the kind of form we finished the match today, I will be very satisfied."

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SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Horse race

PARIS, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Young Mother, favourite for Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe horse race, was drawn poorly when the 19 final declarations were announced today. The filly's trainer, Jean-Marie Beguigne, had been hoping for a low number, but the horse was drawn 14.

Lendl triumphs

STUTTGART, West Germany, Oct. 6. (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl cast aside his old foe John McEnroe to reach the semifinals of the \$350,000 Stuttgart Classic round-robin tennis tournament yesterday.

Faldo leads

STUTTGART, West Germany, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Britain's Nick Faldo, bidding for his fourth Masters title, moved into the lead in today's rain-hit second round of the West German Masters title, moved into the lead in today's rain-hit second round of the West German Masters at the Solitude Club.

Ozaki ahead

NAGOYA, Japan, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Japanese defending champion Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki shot a two-under-par 68 to seize a one-stroke lead after the second round of the 60 million yen (\$430,000) Japan Open golf tournament today.

Sporting links

EAST BERN, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Sporting ties between East and West Germany could be in grave danger because of increased tension between the two countries after the mass exodus of East German refugees to West Germany.

YMCA draw

ABDUL Hadi Al-Mailem Cricket Tournament organised by Young Men Cultural Association (YMCA) will have its draw this evening at 7 pm at the Kafah, Al-Jazera Restaurant, next to National Bank of Kuwait (Kafah). For location contact Tel: 3925055.

Macao GP

LONDON, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Former world champion Sir Jack Brabham and all three of his sons will be in action at the Macao Grand Prix on November 26, a spokesman for the drivers said in London yesterday.

United takeover

LONDON, Oct. 6. (Reuters): The sale of English soccer's most famous club, Manchester United, was in confusion today amid legal action and financial argument. Chief executive Martin Edwards has sought a court injunction to prevent millionaire Michael Knighting's company, MK Trafford Holdings, using confidential information about the club. Knighting is reported to be seeking further backers to rescue his trouble £20 million (\$32 million) takeover bid.

Lawsuit settled

BOSTON, Oct. 6. (Reuters): The Boston Celtics have reached an agreement with European champions Jugoplastika that will allow star centre Dino Rajda to play for the National Basketball Association team next year, the US team announced. Under the agreement, which settles a lawsuit brought by the Yugoslav team, Rajda will play for Jugoplastika in the 1989-90 season and will then be free to play for the Celtics during the 1990-91 NBA season.

Czechs triumph

PRAGUE, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Czechoslovakia beat Portugal 2-1 (half-time 1-0) in a World Cup European Group Seven qualifying soccer match today.

Scorers: Czechoslovakia — Michal Bilek (11th Pen, 82nd); Portugal — Rui Aguas (74th).

Barnes out

LONDON, Oct. 6. (UPI): Liverpool forward John Barnes today has been ruled out of the England squad for next Wednesday's vital World Soccer Cup European Group Two qualifying match against Poland in Katowice.

Live telecast

KUWAIT TV sports channels will show live the World Cup qualifying match — first leg — between Algeria and Egypt tomorrow. (Oct 8) at 8.00 pm Kuwait local time. The second match will be played in Cairo on Nov 17.

Egypt clinch Arab team tennis titles

A CAPACITY crowd at the Ramada Al Salam tennis court watched Egypt clinch both under-18 and -16 titles at the Arab Brotherhood Tennis Championship on Thursday. Both Egyptian teams beat their Kuwaiti counterparts in the final.

In the under-18 category Egypt comfortably won 2-0 while in the under-16 match,

Egypt won 2-1 with great difficulty after a very exciting match to the applause of the capacity crowd.

In the under-18 match, Thamer Al Sawi of Egypt, a 17-year old ranked 90 in the world beat Kuwait's Waleed Al Banna 6-1 6-1 in a match that lasted an hour. In the second match, Egypt's Mohammad

Ulwani beat Kuwait's Khaled Rasheed 6-4 7-6.

In the under-16 category, Kuwait's Tareq Hadeed beat Egypt's Jihad Al Deeb 5-7, 7-5 and 6-1 in a two-hour match, while Amro Ghumeim of Egypt beat Tareq Al Subaishi of Kuwait, 6-3 6-0.

In the deciding doubles, the Egyptian

team won 6-4 after the Kuwaiti doubles were 4-0 up, but the Egyptians took six consecutive games to clinch the set and the title.

Meanwhile, the singles competition of the tournament will commence today. 30 players under 18 and 26 players under-16 will compete for the singles crowns.

Bishara praises Amir's initiative

Kuwait getting Fifa referees

The Secretary-General of the Gulf Co-operation Council, Abdullah Ya'qub Bishara has greatly praised the initiative of HH the Amir in calling for the organisation of the Peace and Friendship Games in Kuwait.

Bishara said after arriving in Kuwait that the participation of 44 Islamic countries in the Games is an example for Islamic unity.

Bishara said that the gathering in itself means a lot and that it requires lot of efforts and preparations. He added that the initiative of HH the Amir also has many humanitarian objectives. Some of these objectives including preserving the Islamic heritage and emphasising the principles of Islam in calling for peace and friendship among the peoples of the world.

Bishara announced that he would attend the inauguration of the Games and some other competitions. He expressed confidence that Kuwait will greatly succeed in organising the Games from Oct 30 to Nov 12, because it has proved on many occasions that it was capable of organising huge gatherings and sports events.

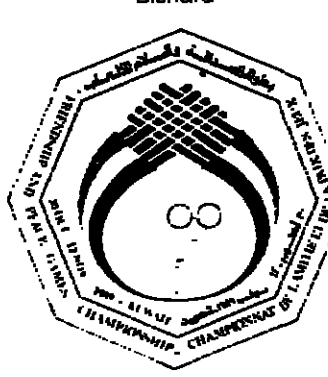
The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Abdul Aziz Jaafar stressed that the gathering of the large number of

Islamic countries in Kuwait, would lead to a fruitful results for Kuwait and its sports movement. He expressed confidence that the Games would achieve great results to suit the efforts being exerted in their preparations. Jaafar called upon all to extend their support to the organisers, adding that the chairman of the organising committee, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmed won't spare any effort to ensure the success of the Games. He also praised the active role of the deputy chairman Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed. He said that the Ministry of Information has already put all the ministry's technical, and human resources at the disposal of the organisers.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed announced that over 200 foreign journalists will arrive in Kuwait to cover the events of the Games. A fully equipped main press centre and several other smaller centres at the various stadiums and halls, where the Games will be played, have already been set up. The head of the press centre, Faisal Al Quenai yesterday told Kuwait TV that the centre will provide all the necessary communication services for the journalists and the local newspaper. He said that the centre



Bishara



also supervises the preparation and publication of a tri-language newsletter that would be published throughout the Games. He added that a number

of publications about Kuwait and the participating countries will be distributed. Al Quenai said that many volunteers have already offered themselves to assist the press centre employees.

The organising committee of the Games received a message from the FIFA secretary-general, Josef Blatter giving names of four European football referees that the FIFA nominated to officiate the football matches during the Peace and Friendship Games.

Acting director-general of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali has ordered the setting up of municipality office at the organising committee headquarters with 4 employees specialised in decoration. The employees will assist the organising committee in the decorations.

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed has sent a letter of thanks to Sheikh Mohammad Al Abdullah Al Mubarak Al Sabah for donating "a photofinish" set to be used in the athletics competition at the Kaifan track. The Kaifan stadium lacked such an important facility until Sheikh Mohammad donated the set and ordered its installation.

Meanwhile, many local government and private establi-

shments have expressed their readiness to help in the success of the Peace and Friendship Games. Many of these companies have already sent their donations and contributions to the organising committee.

Dr Kasha Al Sabah, assistant Kuwait University Rector for Media and Community Service Affairs, said that the university is helping the organising committee in translating the booklets and other publications of the Games into English, and French. She said that this comes in order to contribute to the success of the Games. She praised the organisers of the Games for the great efforts they have been exerting.

Kuwait University Rector, Dr Shuaib Abdullah hoped that the Peace and Friendship Games would be held regularly. He hoped that Kuwait University students will actively participate in the preparations.

The manager of national teams at the Kuwait Volleyball Federation, Ali Shuaib said yesterday that the Kuwait national volleyball team will enter into an internal training camp soon in preparation for the Games. He added that friendly matches will be played in Kuwait against teams like Iraq, India and Bulgaria.



Al Jarallah (right) with his co-driver

Jarallah finishes 5th

THE Victory team took first place in both classes of the Dubai Offshore Powerboat Race yesterday. Hamad Buhaila took the lead from the start and finished the event nearly five minutes ahead of second-placed Suhail Zaid and MacMillan, who won last January's race. Third place was taken by Jafer Ali.

Mishal Al Jarallah was the first foreign entrant, and the first of the Kuwaitis to make it home — he took fifth place in his debut outing with the 32' Kourou Cougar Catamaran. "The boat is excellent," said a delighted Jarallah after the race. "This is very good for a first run, but there are still some modifications and adjustments to be done before we race again in Jordan next month."

However, the Kourou driver had experienced some problems before the race, and had lost power in one of his three Mercury 2.4 e.f.s. Fortunately it was the mid-mounted engine, and Jarallah was able to continue without significant loss of stability. "The frustrating thing is that at one point we were lying second, on just two engines, then we began to fall back. Still, it is a respectable start to the season."

Many of the other Kuwaitis experienced problems, but Merit driver Hossam Sayafi proved his determination by continuing for two laps on only one engine — at one point he was approached by the coast guard who wanted to tow him, but he refused, and made it into twelfth place.

First place in the standard grouping was taken by Khalil Harabin in the second of the Victory team boats to cross the finish line. Hamad Al Sha'ali followed him across the line. A total of 59 boats started the race which covered 79 nautical miles and lasted for 1-1/2 hours.

Jansher sails through Jahangir upset

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Australian Chris Dittmar caused the biggest upset of the world Open squash championship when he put out holder and six times winner Jahangir Khan in the semifinals today.

"The third-seeded Dittmar, twice a losing finalist, recorded his first ever triumph over the top-seeded Pakistani 15-9 12-15 15-9 9-15 15-13 in a match lasting just under two hours.

The left-handed Australian appeared reckless as he went for the kill with the score at 13-13 in the fifth game.

He hit an outright winner off Jahangir's serve and, shocked at his own impetuosity, said afterwards: "It was probably the worst shot selection I have ever made. If I'd missed it, it would have destroyed me."

Encouraged by this break, Dittmar attempted another winner with a volley off Jahangir's return of serve at match point and once more hit the mark to take the match.

The veteran Pakistani, showing flashes of exquisite class but caught out at times for lack of speed, attributed his surprise defeat largely to indifferent refereeing.

But he added: "I don't want to take anything away from Dittmar."

In tomorrow's final, Dittmar plays another Pakistani, 1987 champion Jansher Khan, who brushed aside an off form Australian fifth seed Chris Robertson 15-3 15-12 15-6.

Dittmar, whose career was interrupted for a year by a training accident four years ago, lost to Jahangir in the final in Stuttgart in 1983 and to Jansher in Birmingham two years ago.

Jansher and Dittmar have met twice in the last month, in the Singapore and Hong Kong Opens, the Pakistani winning comfortably on both occasions.

Yesterday Jahangir brushed aside Briton Mark MacLean 15-11 15-11 15-12 to set up a clash with Chris Dittmar, the third-seeded left-hander from Adelaide who has lost twice in the final here in the past six years.

MacLean offered spirited resistance but never troubled Jahangir, who is seeking his seventh title here. The Scotsman, who on Wednesday beat Jahangir's compatriot Umar Hayat, opened with a series of fine attacking strokes to lead 8-4 briefly in the first game.

Mansell must wait 12 days before ruling

LISBON, Oct. 6. (Reuters): British driver Nigel Mansell must wait another 12 days before the Portuguese Grand Prix organising committee rules on his appeal against a \$50,000 fine, Portuguese officials said today.

"Mansell and his Ferrari team lodged an appeal against the fine the day after the Estoril Grand Prix and the ruling is scheduled for a meeting on Oct. 18," Alfredo Cesar Torres of the organising committee told Reuters.

Mansell was suspended for one race and fined \$50,000 for ignoring a black flag during last month's Estoril race.

Yesterday a Paris meeting of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) postponed a verdict on the case until the Portuguese race authorities had ruled on the fine.

Denying reports that a civil court was involved, Torres said: "The case concerns only the Portuguese motor racing authorities and involves only the fine, not the race ban."

Torres, who is president of the Portuguese Automobile Club, said the appeals committee would be made up of three Portuguese officials.

Mason knocks out Biggs

LONDON, Oct. 6. (AP): Unbeaten Gary Mason smashed a short right-hand punch through Tyrell Biggs' guard and knocked out the former Olympic super-heavyweight gold medalist at the end of the seventh round of a non-title heavyweight contest Wednesday.

Mason, the British national heavyweight champion, scored his 32nd consecutive victory, all but one inside the distance, as he inflicted the third straight defeat on the American's career.

Biggs, giving away 21 pounds,

appeared to have soaked up Mason's best punches and was controlling the seventh round with his long left jab when he got caught by a crunching punch right on the bell at the end of round seven of the scheduled 10-round contest at the Royal Albert Hall.

The 1984 Olympic titlist was sent flat on his back and couldn't beat the count. It was the same round in which Mike Tyson knocked out Biggs in their world championship clash two years ago.

Yusupov holds Karpov

LONDON, Oct. 6. (Reuters): Soviet grandmaster Artur Yusupov played to adjournment against compatriot Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman of the Netherlands drew with Briton Jon Speelman at the World Chess Championship semifinals in London yesterday.

The contest is to provide the next challenger for world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union.

In the all-Soviet clash, play was even after 10 moves but Karpov had used almost half an hour to Yusupov's three minutes.

Karpov had to play 14 moves in 10 minutes to reach his first time control. In a tense second session, the game reached adjournment after 60 moves.

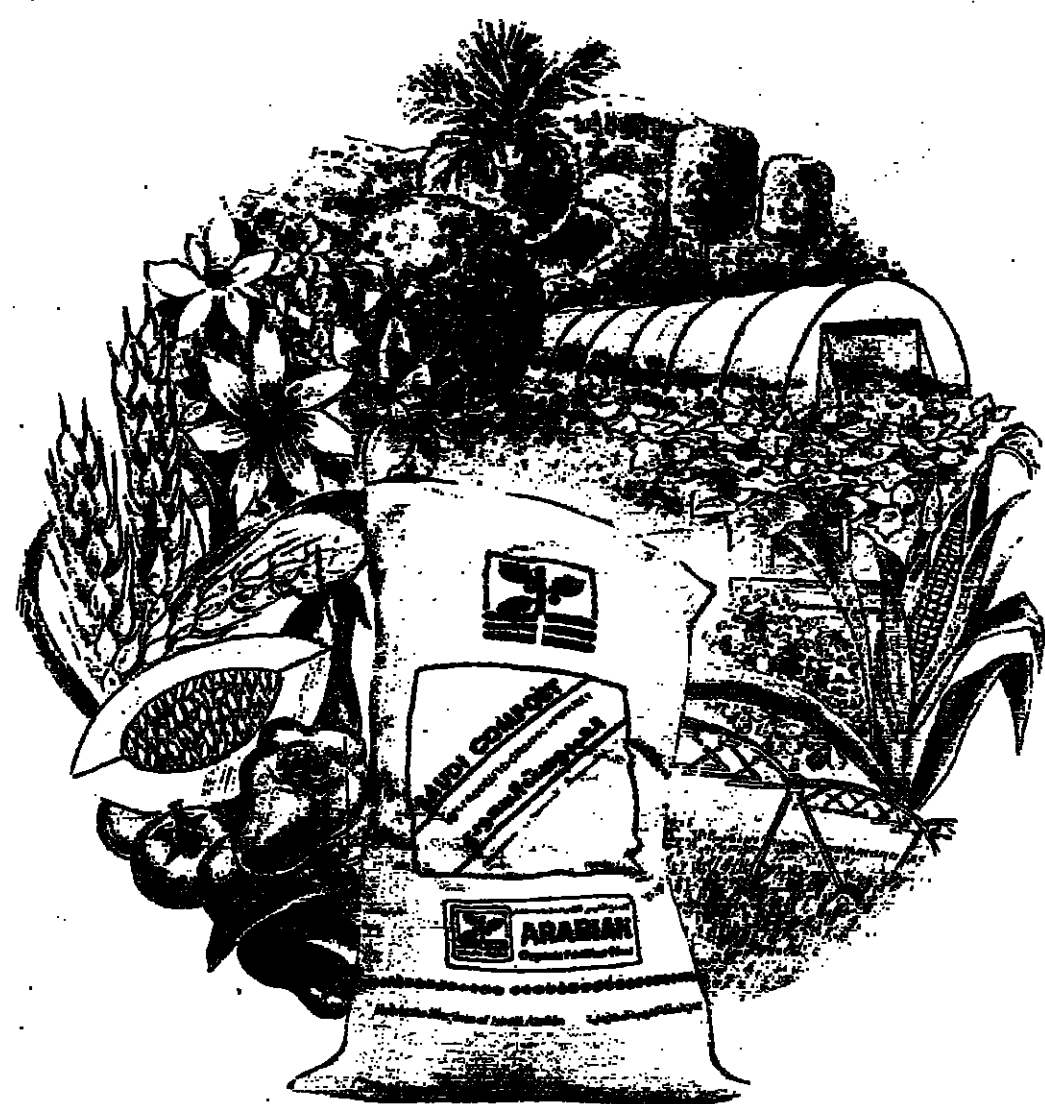


US triumph

Martina Navratilova (left) and Chris Evert share a laugh during a news conference yesterday after the United States team beat Austria 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup in Tokyo. (Reuters wirephoto)

See Page 19.

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